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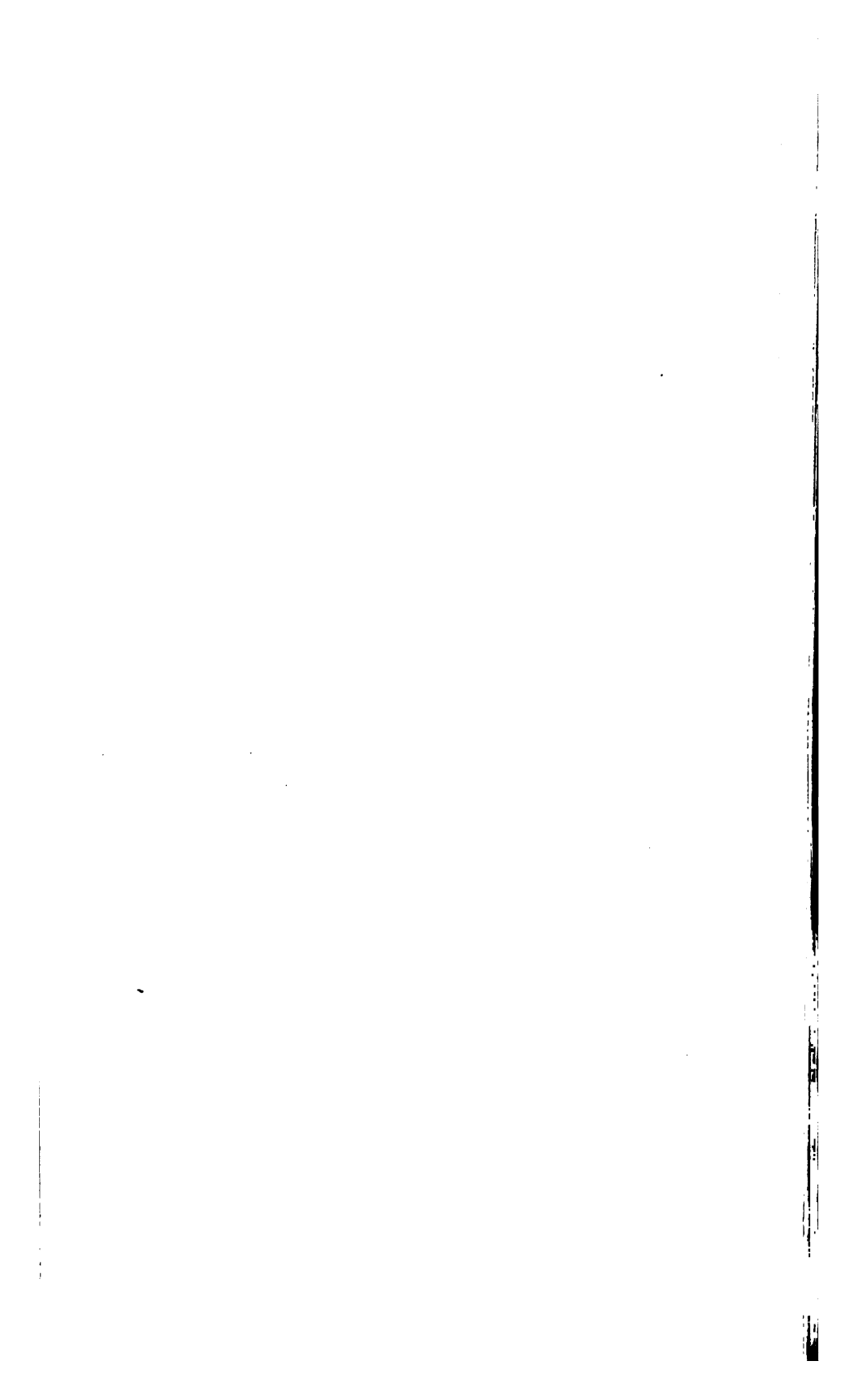
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CSW

Atkinson



IRELAND
EXHIBITED TO ENGLAND,
IN A POLITICAL AND MORAL
SURVEY OF HER POPULATION,
AND IN A STATISTICAL AND SCENOGRAPHIC
TOUR OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS;
COMPREHENDING
SPECIMENS OF HER COLONISATION, NATURAL HISTORY AND
ANTIQUITIES, ARTS, SCIENCES, AND COMMERCE, CUSTOMS,
CHARACTER, AND MANNERS, SEATS, SCENES AND
SEA VIEWS.
Violent Inequalities in her Political and Social System,
THE
TRUE SOURCE OF HER DISORDERS.
PLAN FOR SOFTENING DOWN THOSE INEQUALITIES, AND FOR UNITING ALL
CLASSES OF THE PEOPLE IN ONE CIVIL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY.
WITH A
LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
ON THE
STATE OF IRELAND.

By **A. ATKINSON, Esq.**

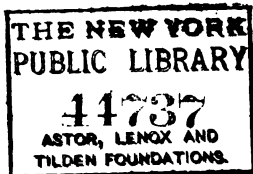
LATE OF DUBLIN.

Concordiâ res parvæ crescunt—discordiâ maximæ dilabuntur.—SALLUST.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1823.



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TO HIS

ROYAL HIGHNESS AUGUSTUS FREDERICK,

DUKE OF SUSSEX, &c. &c.

SIR,

I DEDICATE this work to your Royal Highness for two reasons:—first, because you are the brother of my sovereign; secondly, because, in the person of your Royal Highness, your country recognises a friend to her constitutional freedom.

As this feature of your Royal Highness' character, is that which reflects the brightest lustre on your name and high descent; so, in the feeling which dictates this tribute of respect, I offer the purest pledge of my attachment to that august house, which was placed upon the throne of this realm by the people; the maintenance of whose just rights, is equally the immoveable basis of that throne, the prolific source of prosperity to the empire, and the surest pledge of England's ascendancy in the scale of nations.

Convinced that he who exerts his influence to support the rights of the subject—to advocate the cause of the poor and the oppressed—to render accessible to the hand of INDUSTRY the PLENTY of the land—to protect the constitution, and to IMPROVE the laws—and to procure for talents that *cannot be corrupted* their just position in the service of the state, is THE ONLY TRUE FRIEND OF HIS KING AND COUNTRY, I offer to your Royal Highness my humble congratulations, on having selected for your political race this field of glory; and in your Royal Highness' pursuit of that imperishable fame, which has its origin in a faithful devotion to the public service, I fervently pray, that you may be rendered a pillar in the temple of the constitution, supporting, on one side, the just prerogatives of the Crown, and on the other, the just liberties of the people,

I have the honour to be,

Your Royal Highness'

Obedient humble Servant,

A. ATKINSON.

PREFACE.

THE Author's object in this publication being an exhibition of the present state of Ireland, every foreign object has been studiously precluded; and even the few facts of her ancient history, and those monuments of her antiquity, which are noticed in the work, have only been introduced to give the reader a more accurate conception of her existing portrait. The descriptions of her seats and scenery were taken on the spot, by the Author and other living writers; and the specimens of her natural history, antiquities, manufactures, and commerce, have been collected from the purest sources. There is not a garret view in the whole work; nor is the political and moral portrait of Ireland, with the remedies for her disorders, which this work contains, the discovery of "olden times;" but the fruit of that experience which the Author acquired by an attentive observation of his country for thirty years, and a long course of travels through it, in the prosecution of his literary pursuits, within the last ten. He hence flatters himself that nothing essential to a true conception of the state of Ireland has been omitted in this work, nor can

he recollect a single department of her social history, of which he has not given a sufficient sample to enable the reader to form a tolerably correct outline of the whole.

To the measures by which the peace of Ireland, may be established on a durable foundation, and her prosperity progressively advanced, this work has been devoted, as to its first and most worthy object; and if, in the concise but pregnant view, which the Author has taken of her present political circumstances, he has only touched upon one or two cardinal acts of the Irish administration, it is because that administration, of whatever elements composed, cannot, in its executive capacity, lay a lasting foundation for the peace of Ireland; although for a moment it may appear to tranquilize a troubled ocean, or, by its terrors, awe it into gloomy silence. To objects, therefore, of more vital importance to the interests of Ireland, than the acts of its executive government, the Author has directed his inquiries, and now labours to call the attention of the British cabinet and senate. It is from these alone, that union of the clergy of the two churches *in one political interest*, (on which the peace of Ireland so materially depends) and other durable foundations of her future prosperity must proceed; and hence to those paramount sources of authority, he has appealed for the salvation of his country, leaving the government of Ireland to keep the military to its post; convinced that this will form an essential part of its painful duty, until a solid foundation for the peace of Ireland

shall be laid, by a political reconciliation of the two churches.

If, indeed, the period is approaching, in which Ireland is to be governed by a peaceful policy, this union of the clergy of the two churches in a constitutional compact for the improvement of their country, is THE VERY FIRST MEASURE TO BE ADOPTED. There are other measures essential to the prosperity of Ireland, briefly noticed in this work; but as it is not from the Irish administration, separate from England, that these may be expected to proceed, the Author has directed his attention to objects more deep and vital to the interests of Ireland, than the transitory acts of administration; and if these acts, in any instance, have shed a ray of light upon the Author's page, it was to exhibit the inadequacy of the existing remedies to the diseases of the country, in the absence of those legislative provisions, for which he strenuously pleads in the political sections of this work: and in a posture of petition prostrates himself at the threshold of the state, that his bleeding country, if a member of the British family, may no longer be abandoned to her distempers, as an outcast and alien from the English commonwealth.

Whether, in reality, the measures by which Ireland can be regenerated without inflicting a wound upon the established institutions of the country; or, in other words, whether the Author has pointed out the means by which those institutions may be rescued from the dangers which

menace them, and made infinitely stronger pillars of the state than they are at present, is the question which he now submits to the British cabinet and senate, and to the consideration of an enlightened public; and to the arguments and reflections which support it, in the political sections of this work, he refers them.

To those persons who have no taste for political discussion, or statistical details, but who should like to make a tour in Ireland by a British fire-side, (and these tourists are numerous in England) this work may probably find its recommendations, in the vast variety of scenographic descriptions with which it is blended,—in the great works of art and nature which it describes, and in its amusing, but harmless delineations of Irish character and misfortune,—a brogue on every tongue, but not on every foot—beauty in every scene, and wit on every road, from Donaghadee to Dublin. However, the Author cannot (with those gentlemen who write tours for the *trade*) appropriate to himself the bookseller's compliment in Syntax :

“ I know a man who has the skill
To write your books of tours at will ;
And from his *garret* in Moorfields,
Can see what every country yields.” *

By no means. The Irishman who here presents to the British public a portrait of his country, cannot boast of those extraordinary powers which would enable him to get to the end of a seven

* What an eye this genius must have had !

years' tour by a peep from a garret window!—Many a long and painful journey has this deficiency of talent imposed upon him, within the last ten years; but, in the information which he has collected from the best authorities, in the political and statistical details comprehended in these volumes, and in the history of what he has seen with his own eyes, and of which his hands have handled, some compensation will be given to the British public for this defect of nature.

It is, however, only candid to acknowledge, that this is not the only advantage which the tourists of the book trade possess over the author of this work:—they may be said to save a moderate fortune, which he has been compelled to expend in travelling—they procure all their materials at the lowest prices—they never render their names responsible for books which they get up—and lastly, they embellish them with pretty pictures, which entertain the eye, without pretending to enrich the understanding. Here, on the contrary, a large sum has been expended, to combine the living features of Ireland, in a portrait that shall not deceive the nations. Here a stranger, without connections in England, has planted his foot upon the emporium of the world, to spend his last shilling, in calling the attention of England to the distresses of his country! Here the author publishes his name, and renders himself accountable for his history: and here, if he shall obtain a price proportioned to the value of his book, in aid of an extensive patronage, with which he was honoured

in his native land, unless the sale shall exceed his most sanguine expectations, it will not repay the fortune which he has expended in this enterprise, to say nothing of the large proportion of his life which it has consumed!—But, in thus bringing his country before the people of Great Britain, he accomplishes the end which he had in view; and, without a print to decorate the work, it will stand upon its own legs, and vindicate his intentions.

The statesman, the political economist, the lover of Irish scenes and Irish character, the naturalist, who studies the history of the earth; the antiquarian, who broods over the monuments of past ages; the merchant, who exclusively regards the progress of commerce, in a country connected with his own; all, it is hoped, will find something in the varied sections of this work, to repay them for the devotion of an hour;—but, above all, the absent owner of the soil, who has abandoned the vessel of his country to the winds and to the waves, may find warning and information in this work, that may induce him to assist in repairing and piloting the ship, on whose sea-worthiness and safe conduct so materially depends, the preservation of his own cargo.

Thus much, without prejudice to our humility, we are perhaps justified in saying, concerning “Ireland exhibited to the View of England.”—For the residue of her tale, we refer the British public to her own story.

LETTER
TO THE
MEMBERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT,
ON THE
STATE OF IRELAND.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

IN presuming to address you upon the state of Ireland, I am neither unmindful of the respect which I owe to your rank and office, nor of the errors which accidentally result from the best intentioned execution of the duties of civil government.—My creed teaches me to recognise the first,—my own errors and misfortunes, if I had no better monitor, would instruct me to make due allowance for the latter.

But while my breast heaves with compassion for that infirmity of nature, which is doomed to sustain the awful load of being responsible for the happiness or misery of nations, my COUNTRY steps forth to silence the reasonings of philosophy, by a statement of facts, and to present herself covered with wounds at the bar of his Majesty's Government.

Deem it not arrogant, my Lords and Gentlemen, that a man of humble rank shall become the advocate of his country on such an occasion. In the proudest days of Greece and Rome, and shall I add, in the proudest days of modern Britain, every citizen was the sentinel of his country's liberties; and the liberties of that country must soon fall, and with its liberties its glory, when the rights of the people are trodden under foot, and their remonstrances contumeliously rejected.

It did not imply a reflection upon the wisdom of the Roman government, that some of its remote provinces were occasionally agitated; nor did the deputies who presented themselves at the bar of the Roman senate to petition for a redress of grievances, uncouthly charge all the members of the government with corrupt motives. The arduous task of conducting the arms of a mighty nation to success, may, for a season, be incompatible with that vigorous attention to the internal policy of a country, which is necessary to accomplish a reformation of its abuses; but when the period of war has passed over, and the people have returned to the arts of peace, a purification of the internal policy of that nation from every stain of injustice, becomes a sacred duty, and by no other mode can a great nation be prepared for future glorious achievements. You, my Lords and Gentlemen, with your late colleague, had the honour of conducting your country through the late convulsions of Europe to a peaceful close. It is now for you to acquire imperishable fame, by

purging its internal policy of those corruptions which engender strife, and by reducing those burdens, which were unavoidably imposed upon the people, while Britain was engaged in a conflict for her existence as a nation.

I shall now beg to observe, as the advocate of my country's *real interests*, that I can neither strengthen my cause, by identifying it with that of a party opposed to English religion and ascendancy, nor can I approach to procure the favour of that ascendancy, by the suppression of those facts, or the sacrifice of those doctrines, which I conceive to be essential to the salvation of my country. Hence, in the first chapter of this work, I have endeavoured to point out, although in a manner totally inadequate to the importance of the subject, the errors of the people on the one hand, and those mistakes in the political, ecclesiastical, and domestic management of Ireland on the other, by which the value of that country, as the brightest gem in the crown of England, has been diminished; its unity and prosperity retarded, and those discontents, which are the enemies of peace and the parents of convulsion, made the standing donation of the lords of Ireland to their own soil. Nor do I trace these evils, as has been frequently done by other writers, to this or that administration. They grow out of an impolitic exclusion of the Roman Catholic clergy (the most influential order of men in Ireland) from a participation in the ecclesiastical property of the realm, of which they were once the sole possessors: they grow out of

an unequal and impolitic mode of maintenance for the established clergy; a mode at once partial and oppressive, injurious to the moral influence of the established church, and productive of numerous vexations to the clergy, and to the peasantry of the land: they grow out of an inflated code of criminal law, which has not charity for its basis: and to these, and many minor causes which might be mentioned, in too many districts of the country, a vicious system of rural government is added, by which the peasantry, on many properties, are stung to madness, or rendered torpid by despair. To enter into all those errors of antiquity and modern mismanagement, by which the natural capabilities of the Irish soil and character are paralysed and broken, would be a task too complicated for a letter, and totally incompatible with its limits. So far as I conceived a developement of the political and moral state of Ireland essential to a concise portrait of the country, I have given it in the introductory chapter, and in those reflections upon the circumstances of the population with which the work is interspersed; and so far, perhaps, I may venture to say, (notwithstanding the tale of Irish calamity might be spun out into many volumes) as this developement is likely to answer any useful purpose, it has been faithfully though concisely drawn. Compelled, by the duties of my station, and by the nature of my researches, to mix with the lower classes of my countrymen, (as well as with the higher) and to be witnesses of their vices and their wrongs, my

attention was necessarily directed to the character and operations of that machine, by which such a motley mass of good and evil was produced and propagated. I found this machine to be composed of two parts, the political and the domestic; and although the first, (in which I include not only the administration of the laws, but the laws themselves) appeared to me, *in some instances*, to have overacted its part, and in others, to have been sadly defective, yet to the degraded state of the peasantry of the land; the absence of the proprietors of the soil; the oppressions and extortions of middle men and under agents, to which that absence gave birth; the enforcement of ecclesiastical dues, by tithe farmers and jobbers; the non-existence of parochial societies, for hearing the complaints of the poor, and for bettering their condition; and lastly, to the want of profitable employment, in the languishing state of our manufactures and agriculture, might be mainly attributed, the discontents and distresses of the nation. To these discontents and distresses, it was impossible for a heart to be insensible, that was so frequently brought into contact with them, unless it were dead to the common feelings of humanity. To remove the causes which produced them I had no power; but to contribute the humble mite of my testimony to their existence, and to the means by which they might be mitigated or removed, was not so difficult a task, when holding up my country, in the mirror of the press, to the observation and sympathy of the English nation,

Accustomed from early youth to consider England, not only as the land of my ancestors, and the parent of the state, but as the country from which I derived my love of liberty, and which had given to these islands the inestimable jewel of liberty of conscience, whatever tended to promote her prosperity, I regarded as a personal benefit; whatever approached to impair her influence, as an enemy to the public welfare. From the plots and conspiracies, which were formed to rescue Ireland from her dominion, my Christian politics preserved me; and to the same pilot I stand indebted for the safe conduct of my bark through rocks of faction, *whirlpools of deceit*, and SHARKS watching for the destruction of the *innocent*. I am still sailing with my country over this dangerous element; and shall not deny, but I tremble for our safety, since the winds are still whistling around us, and the sea trembling even to its base. The methods by which those winds should be composed, and this sea tranquillized, I submit to the consideration of his Majesty's Ministers, in whose hand is the helm of the state. But in my humble opinion, until the cause is removed, or materially corrected, the effects cannot be controlled by a mere system of coercion. If the evil be produced by an imperfect system of civil policy and rural government, it is human, and may be corrected by a human hand; but mere coercion cannot do this; for although crops may be *mowed down*, seeds will propagate, and it is only a summer sun that can supersede the storms and the gloom of winter.

The British statesman who is truly alive to the best interests of the empire, cannot but find motives of sufficient strength, to induce him to achieve such an improvement of the political and social fabric of Ireland, as may promise to render its union with England prosperous and perpetual. He cannot but suspect, on a cool and impartial view of the discontents which prevail in Ireland, that the weakness and divisions of that country, are more directly the cords by which England holds her in subjection, than a mutual identification of interests, or any of those kindly feelings, which result from a recollection of benefits received. In such a state of affairs, a crisis might possibly arrive, even in England itself, when neither the power nor the policy of a British minister, would be able to preserve the subserviency of Ireland to his views. At present that country may be governed by a strong military force, and by a judicious management of its leading men; but in the progress of events, the latter may lose their influence with the people, as some of them have done already, and the former may be called off to attend to business more immediately at home; and in such a critical conjuncture, (which heaven avert by a timely reformation of our system) of how much importance might it prove to the interests of the British crown, to have secured the affections of the Roman Catholic clergy, by a parental consideration of their title to a proportion of that property, which was once all their own; and those of the people, by the enjoyment

of that peace, plenty, and constitutional liberty, which is the end of all good government, and which would be of infinitely more value to the population of Ireland, than the elevation of its leaders to posts of authority in the state. And if to these important considerations, Irish ministers at least, will add the consideration of their own happiness, as private men, when, by age, or by a change of circumstances, they shall be under the necessity of once more blending with the people. When they reflect on the possibility of a day approaching, when they shall return to their paternal soil, covered with the gratitude or with the hatred of their country; and that the security of Ireland, the fertility of her resources to the British crown, and even the security of their own estates to their posterity, may depend on the stability of the system which they shall bequeath to their country; and that this stability cannot possibly be erected on any other foundation than that of justice; very strong motives indeed, in our humble opinion, present themselves to the minds of those members of the ministry, who have a stake in Ireland, to undertake, while life and health shall last, a regeneration of that system, by which their country is now torn and convulsed.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble servant,

A. ATKINSON.

CONCERNING THE MIDDLE LINK

IN THE

LANDED INTEREST.

HAVING alluded to the abuses of middle occupation in the landed interest of Ireland, in the foregoing letter, and accidentally omitted, in the body of the work, to distinguish the mode by which these abuses might be safely abolished; we feel it expedient, from the importance of this subject to the peace and welfare of our country, to supply this deficiency by a few supplementary reflections; more particularly, as we have not seen a safe practical remedy for these abuses, exhibited to the view of the government and landed interest in any other publication. And that these are deeply concerned in the correction of an evil, which has contributed, with others, to produce numerous breaches of the peace, to render property insecure, and a residence in certain districts of Ireland, dangerous, is a proposition that rests upon its own evidence, and needs no argument to conduct the mind, of a reasonable man, to its just conclusion. The use, however, and the abuse of this link (like that of every other link in our *blessed*

chain) are *two things* : and it shall be the business of this essay to *touch* them both, in a brief examination of their connection (to shift our metaphor) with other *musical chords*, in the *ravishing harmony* of our Irish institutions.

The middle link, in the landed interest of Ireland, however mischievous its abuses, as a bar to the ascendancy of the peasantry in the scale of civilisation, (to which property and education, to a certain extent, are indispensable) is, nevertheless, the offspring of a constitution, which throws open the channels of industry and wealth, like JUSTICE, with a blind and undistinguishing generosity, to all classes of the people. With the abolition of feudal institutions this bird of freedom grew up. With a diminution of those penal statutes, which chained down the industry of the land, it sprung into activity. The war in the Peninsula, and the commerce of England, contributed to its *corpulence* ; and if with those wings, by which it overspread the land, and touched the ocean upon both sides, it absorbed and concentrated within itself that light, and heat, and moisture, which (as a medium of communication between the sun and soil) it should have distributed with a liberal hand among the labouring classes, the same charge stands good against all mercantile monopolists of food ; eminently so against all those Irishmen who (in 1822) had a surplus both of property and corn, and in a land flowing with milk and honey, saw their fellow countrymen who had no money, and who could get no food with-

out it, perishing in multitudes by famine, and by the plague which it produced. The same may be said of every individual who buries his talent of knowledge or property in the earth; or who perverts it into an instrument of oppression, instead of rendering it as diffusive as the light of God for the universal benefit of man. But for these accidental abuses of freedom, a sudden and violent expulsion of the middle link from the chain of the landed interest, is no more the remedy, than a sudden and violent expulsion of all misers and monopolists from the country; or a sudden and violent expulsion of the church from the constitution of England, on account of the abuses of the tithe system.

If the government, after laying the foundation of the peace of Ireland, (by legislative enactments, calculated to establish a good understanding between the two churches) would co-operate with the leading interests of that country in the formation of a national society, for the correction of the abuses of this link, and of every other link in the chain of society in Ireland, we have no doubt but a gradual reform of all public abuses would be effected: (for a union of the churches would be half the work) but we deny that these abuses, which are the accidental evils of a state of freedom, should be touched by the coercive hand of law (as the outcry against the middle men of Ireland, from certain quarters, would appear to indicate.) It is the powerful force of public example and exertion, nationally uniting, and indivi-

dually operating upon the customs and institutions of the country, that must gradually purge the Irish social system of those abuses, which have not their actual foundation in the laws. *Virtuous law* may be called in to purge out *vicious law*; (an extremely good office for it in the present day) since vicious laws have a most demoralizing influence upon the manners of a country; but with the abuses of freedom, law must meddle with a sparing hand, lest it paralyse the springs of public industry and enterprise; or perhaps sink the country still deeper into insurrection; or even plunge the government itself into the vilest abyss of despotism; an evil much more to be deprecated than all the evils which accidentally result from a state of freedom.

That the middle link in the landed interest of Ireland (as in that of England) will disappear, as civilisation advances in that country, is extremely probable; but as it was originally composed of men who knew the habits of the peasantry, and may be supposed to have had some property and influence—in a country where civilisation was imperfect, and property proportionally insecure, it was found a useful link in the landed chain; and therefore having obtained a position of property and respectability there, it should not be too suddenly abolished. It was, and still is, a prop, upon which the lord of the soil reposes with more security, for the payment of his rent, than upon the link of labour without capital. When he entered on the possession of his estate, he found the labourer

uncivilized: in many instances, if not in most, he took no pains to raise him in the scale of education and property; consequently, the middle link was *essential* to his *security*; and although it presented a barrier to the labourer's elevation in the scale of property, (without which his improvement as a citizen could not be sensibly promoted) this gave the *blessed lord* no concern while his rent was paid! The abuses resulting from the power of re-letting, without any limitation as to price, (and without any reference to the peasant's improvement) were left to accumulate, with all other abuses, until the peace of the country being broken up, and uniting with other causes to diminish or destroy the landlord's income, the absentee or presentee, no matter which, has, in some instances, been induced to turn his attention to the improvement of the lower classes; and perceiving that an oppressive use of the constitutional freedom of the middle link, has been productive of mischief on his estate, he resolves to extinguish it, not considering that this mode of proceeding is calculated to produce reaction; and is as unjust on his part as the oppression of the labouring classes is unjust in the middle interest. And finally, that to his own negligence (in not combining, by a wise economy, the interests of the lower with the middle link, and rendering both subservient to the improvement of the country, which is the landlord's true interest) may be attributed, as to their source, the insecurity of his property, and every species of

misery, by which the country is agitated and disgraced.

Hence we contend, that the abuses of the middle link should be gradually abolished, by a division of its interests with the link of actual labour; and that this should be done at the fall of every lease, by an arrangement that shall be more particularly noticed hereafter, and not by a sudden and violent separation of the middle link from the chain of the landed interest. This would accomplish the ends of improvement by a slow but certain process:—no taint of injustice would attach to such a mode of reform—no adequate stimulus to reaction would be furnished. As the middle link of the landed interest is now circumstanced, its sudden separation from the chain of society would be an adventurous experiment. In it is concentrated a large proportion of the magistracy and secondary gentry of the country; to say nothing of the leading farmers, who frequently re-let a portion of their lands—the link itself is the child of freedom, and should not be suddenly and violently cast out; but as it is certainly much overgrown, and in many instances has made a bad use of its liberty, it should be chastised by discipline—its portion of food diminished by dividing it with the lower classes—and finally, if this measure of reform did not work its cure, incorporated with the link beneath it. This is our remedy for the abuses of the middle system: and we think all reasonable men, who are acquainted with the circumstances of Ireland, will do us the justice to ac-

knowledge, that, in such a country, it is better suited to the nature of the disease, than that system of wholesale reform, for which some violent gentlemen are advocates.

In taking a retrospective view of the marvellous operations of Providence, in relation to that country which forms the subject of this work, with what wonder do we contemplate the progressive movements of its finger in the march of justice:—in the success of the British arms, which put an end to feudal despotism and feudal wars; in the abolition of its petty principalities, and its union with a great nation; and in the rude elements of the British constitution, which were conferred upon it, we see the first principles of its regeneration.

That Providence which, in its mighty march, broke into pieces the savage despotism of the feudal age, is not done with Ireland:—that Providence, which rescued the rights of all from the iron grasp of the despotic few, and distributed them, *to a certain extent*, among the people; and which sent a torch, kindled at the fountain of law and science, to illuminate the land, will not stop *here*. It was not for this purpose that it conferred upon Ireland, arts, sciences, and the enfranchisement of cities. It was not for this purpose that it gave her to taste the sweets of commerce and of law. It was not for this purpose that it gave a check to ecclesiastical domination, and drew the rude outlines of a liberal constitution upon the ruins of the feudal system. Nor was it for this

purpose, that it embraced within those outlines, a new race of nobility, gentry, and clergy, judges, magistrates, and merchants—THESE HAVE BEEN THE GRADUAL OFFSPRING OF THE MARCH OF PROVIDENCE; and if the blessings of liberty, property, and intellectual improvement, have descended even to the middle link, of which we are now treating, they will not stop *here*; they will stoop even to the peasant's hut—the walls of partition, by which the bodies and the minds of men have been kept in a state of abject vassalage, will be broken down; and we entertain not a doubt but this gracious Providence, which has descended with its blessings from the throne to the middle link of the landed interest, (and which this link, like all others, has too frequently and generally rendered an instrument of oppression to the poor) is now standing at the threshold of the peasant's door, and will, ere long, open that door, and bring glad tidings to its oppressed inhabitants!

The regeneration of Ireland is now loudly called for, by the circumstances of that country; and to rescue her from a state of hopeless anarchy, nothing less than a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull of the whole leading interests of the country and the government, will prove sufficient. For our own part we are decidedly of opinion, that the establishment of a branch of the royal family in that country, would be the first effectual step towards collecting around the vice-regal chair, that higher link in the landed interest, whose concessions to the lower ranks, and active exertions in

favour of the country, are absolutely indispensable to its political salvation. We have no doubt but the appointment of a royal duke to fill the vice-regal chair, would collect around the Irish court, a sufficient proportion of the landed interest to support the British government (if it be so disposed) in the formation and vigorous maintenance of a national institution for the improvement of the country.

Should such an institution be formed, a gradual reduction of the interests of the middle link, and a gradual elevation of the inferior ranks, in the scale of productive labour, will be found the true expedient for the abuses and misfortunes of the peasantry of Ireland. And to this end, if every lord of the soil, or his immediate agent, when the lease of a middle man expires, would summon the under tenants to appear before him, and see that their interests are amply secured, before the lease of the middle man has been renewed: a better method could not be adopted, for promoting an improvement in the condition of the peasantry; preserving peace and a good understanding between the various links of the landed interest; securing to the lord of the soil a solvent tenantry; and to the British government, a prosperous and peaceful branch of its dominion. It is time that the lax and desultory system by which Ireland has hitherto been managed, should now be atoned for by a new and vigorous system of reform. It is time, indeed, that its civil and domestic rulers should

unite for this express purpose ; and support, by the powerful influence of their example, in every parish, a society for the correction of abuses, and for the promotion of general improvement. We took the liberty of suggesting a plan of this kind to the notice of a gentleman of large fortune in Munster, several years since ; and had peasantry improvement societies existed at that time, in the counties of Limerick and Clare, and directed the weight of their influence against violent infractions of justice, in the landed interest, and towards a gradual elevation of the peasantry, in the scale of education and domestic comfort, it is most probable, that the blood which has since been so largely shed in these counties, and the property which has been so extensively destroyed, would have been preserved to the community : but we lament to say, that it is from England the salvation of Ireland must come ; and without her, we fear, neither the gallantry nor other generous qualities of her lords, will be found of sufficient efficacy to save their country !—When, however, the nobility and gentry of Ireland shall be steadily conducted by the rank and influence of England, to an object so worthy the *native generosity of their character*, we have no doubt but much will be done ; for we were always certain of their capacity, and never doubted any thing but their want of perseverance in the work. To a steady holding of the plough, in the work of Irish improvement, the hand of England is indispensably needful. Without this,

our worthy countrymen, we fear, after amusing themselves for an hour in the useful yoke, would grow impatient of the toil. The force of example would, perhaps, be sufficient to keep them firm to their duty; for a high sense of honour is a characteristic of the nation: but if left to themselves in the work of national improvement, we fear they would grow weary of well doing, and, perhaps in a fit of *ennui*, dart from the plough, with that impatience of control for which the high blood of Ireland is distinguished, mount their coursers on the turf, and crying tally-ho, tally-ho, leave Ireland and the world to work their own redemption.

To the conclusion, which a long and attentive observation of Ireland conducted us, in favour of a *gradual* reduction of the long established custom of middle occupation; not only the peculiar temper and character of the nation, but the palpable impolicy and even cruelty of making a sudden and destructive inroad upon a long established interest, necessarily contributed. Had the gallant stranger, whose zeal for the abolition of this link was the unfortunate occasion of so much confusion in the Munster circuit, instead of handing over the lands of every middle man, as his lease, say at one pound per acre, expired, (and which, in many cases, the middle man had re-let at three) secured to him a gradually sinking interest, and to his under tenants a proportional elevation in the scale of property; although the rent-roll of the lord of the soil would have derived no increase from this arrangement, at the time, yet the value of his

estate, and the security of his income would have derived much; and it is probable, although we do not speak dogmatically, that this judicious proceeding would have had a more healing influence upon the soil over which that gentleman presided; than the well-intended, but certainly injudicious measure of reform which he achieved. In this case, the lands on that property, which the middle tenant had previously held at one pound per acre, and re-let at three, this gentleman would have renewed to him at THE SAME RENT, on condition that he should renew for his under tenants (the cultivators of the soil) at two pounds per acre instead of three; an elevation of more than thirty-three per cent. in the under tenant's former scale of interest. This plan, while it would raise the labouring farmer high in the scale of property and comfort, would still leave an interest with the middle link, well worthy of consideration; and such a mode would, in our humble opinion, have worked well upon the character and feelings of both classes. A farther reduction in the interest of the middle link could be made with safety, when the new lease expired; and thus, without the cruelty and impolicy of *suddenly* extinguishing the long established interest of a family that had resided on the soil, and a long existing custom of the country, the middle link would have gradually died off; while the peace of the district would have been united with the improvement of its population. Instead, however, of thus gradually proceeding, the agent in question is said to have

leased off, as they fell to his disposal, lands, for example, which had been held by the middle tenant at one pound per acre, and re-let at three, exclusively to the under tenants, at two pounds per acre; thus securing to the latter, a reduction of one-third in their former rents, *and an increase to the proprietor's rent-roll, so far, of one hundred per cent!*—But all this was done at the expense of a link in the chain of society that had been long established, and was comparatively respectable.—It was a dangerous experiment in the south of Ireland; and in any country, would be an illiberal, if not an impolitic attack upon a long established interest. Whether it is such treatment as a man would like to receive himself in the same circumstances, impartial justice must pronounce; and the subsequent trials of that gentleman, and the troubles of his neighbourhood, will assist to determine whether it was politic.

We fully believe that the agent alluded to in this note, acted according to the best of his judgment, for the advantage of the property with whose interests he had been intrusted. To his partial acquaintance with the character of the country, and the discharge of what he conceived to be an imperative duty due to the property under his control, and not to voluntary error or corruption of design, we attribute the too gallant and vigorous course which he adopted; and we have no doubt but his subsequent painful experience (in which we truly and feelingly participate)

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has since developed to his view *more clearly* the character of Ireland, and taught him to govern the property under his control, (if he is now charged with any such in that country) by a policy more cautious and progressive in its measures of reform.

ERRATA.

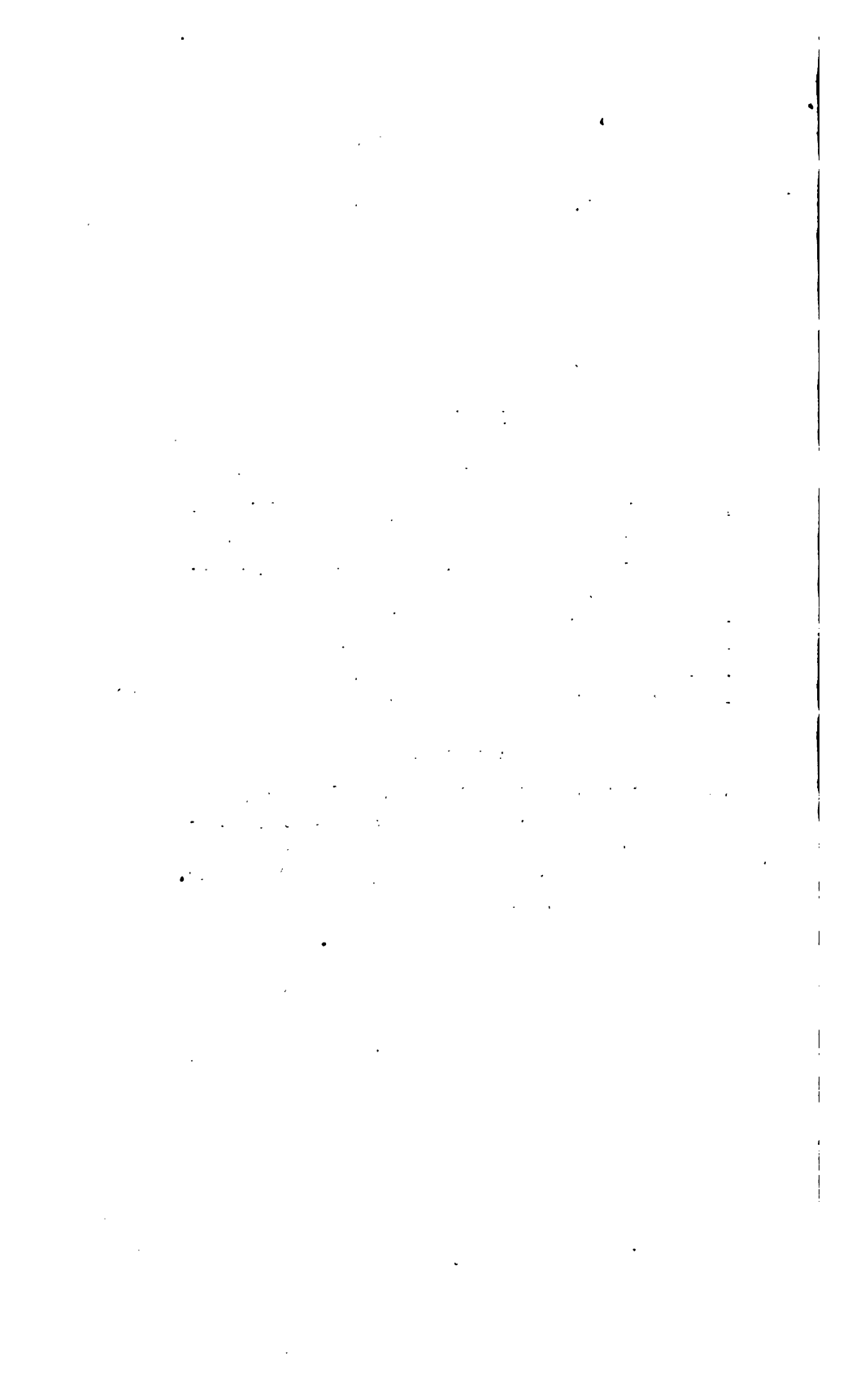
VOLUME I.

Page 170, *for* a proper attention to punctuation being secured, and rendered habitual to the scholar, *read*, will be detected, corrected, and ultimately routed from the field

- 191, last line, *for* hamlets, *read*, habitations
- 194, fifth and sixth lines, *for* hamlets, *read*, cottages
- 198, last line but one, *for* In, *read*, On
- 364, fourth line, *for* Per, *read*, Ter

VOLUME II.

- Page 39, ninth and tenth lines, *for* are ranged on the opposite shore of the Belfast lough, *read*, sweep from Belfast to Carrickfergus on the margin of the bay
- 319, eighth line from the bottom, *for* these two latter articles, *read*, this latter article



IRELAND, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Ireland introduced to the notice of the Reader.—Author's anxiety for the improvement of his country.—Brief view of her political circumstances.—Remedies for her disorders pointed out.—Political reflections resumed and concluded.

READER we are about to introduce you to a country that is distinguished by all that is great and little, cultivated and wild, generous and cruel—that unites the most eminent learning and talents, with the most savage ignorance and stupid credulity. A country, that being happily conquered but not always happily governed, has been the prey of elements hostile to each other, and violently contending for dominion! A country, that by a timely attention, on the part of its conquerors, to the interests of its native clergy, might have been easily conciliated and governed through them, with the assistance of that atten-

tion to its civil interests, to which its intrinsic value so justly entitles it. A country, that would now be as tranquil and happy, as prosperous and liberal as England, had those measures been timely adopted; but which, in the present neglected state of the catholic clergy, and the existence of a few impolitic institutions, is alive to every insult, incapable of receiving truth, and ready to visit with vengeance the hand of him who would dare to present it to the people! In a word, a country, great in its talents, great in its achievements, and great in its barbarities and vice! Such is the country through which we invite the reader to accompany us. The first through which we have travelled for information or for profit. The first in Britain's wide domain, for purity of climate, and for the beauty of its fields and rivers; and the last (from the rage of contending interests) in which we should choose to live. In a word, a country (to use the expression of the eloquent and learned Grattan) "for which God has done much and man little." May those humble lines contribute their proportion of effect, towards the removal of those neglects and barbarities by which her character has been hitherto dishonoured; and assist to turn the attention of the Nobility and Gentry of Ireland, once more to that place which has the first claim upon their attention, and which they have too long abandoned to its errors and misfortunes. May they return home and establish parochial societies for encouraging industry and education, agriculture and commerce; and peti-

tion the legislature to make a competent provision for the Catholic clergy, and thus unite them to the constitution. May they endeavour to obtain a correction of those criminal laws, which confound the distinctions of crime, outrage moral feeling, and are themselves the parents of many evils; and such an alteration of the tithe laws, as shall combine with an adequate provision for the clergy, an exemption of the labourer from an oppressive impost; and having obtained for their country a rational modification of the elective franchise, and as many helps as the legislature can be prevailed on to grant to its commerce and manufactures, procure for it, as the safeguard of all its other benefits, a strong National Police, that shall have no other interest in Ireland but the preservation of its peace, and that shall not be permitted to reside sufficiently long in any district to form lasting connections with the people. These appear to us to be the *practicable* means of reforming *Ireland*. To these, other means might be added for her perfection, and for the perfection of justice, but we have confined ourselves to those measures, which we conceive to be fundamental, and most practicable, as not materially affecting the institutions of the country; or rather, as being calculated to give those institutions a firm and lasting foundation in the public mind. Nor are these observations the result of a transitory view, but of a long course of attention and painful experience. To those who have no feeling for Ireland, nor for the salvation of man, we know these expos-

ulatory hints will be addressed in vain. But we trust this is not the character of all those, upon whose opinion the destiny of the country is suspended. On the contrary, we believe that many of them are convinced of the truth of these remarks, and have no doubt but some members of the cabinet are among the number; but while contending with the enemy abroad, and with the competitors for places at home, the people of Ireland, are sometimes forgotten, their interests remain in the back ground, and in labouring to drag the machine of the state up the hill, and to keep it there, the immense revenues of the Bishops that are a clog upon it, and those neglected provisions for the people, which are so many spokes wanting in its wheel, are too frequently overlooked, or entirely forgotten; and provided the machine can be propped up in any way, until it is propelled by force to the place of its destination, all is well.

We are now introducing our reader to something like the *positive* principle of the work; a principle that we trust will give him no reason to repent of having embarked with us in our tour. This principle, however, has not yet been sufficiently explained; no, nor even that part of it which is exclusively political. Let us therefore proceed with this, and when finished, we shall then briefly notice the other items of our plan. Know then, that in politics, we are so far from being in the fashion of that country upon which we are writing, that we are directly opposed to it in several grand articles. The same eccentricity

would have followed us to England, had we made a tour through that country and published it in London. To confine ourselves however to the subject of our present tour, we beg to observe, in relation to Irish politics, that, we are so far from joining the hue and cry against the union of Ireland with England, that we wish, most sincerely, it had taken place in the reign of Edward III. when representatives were summoned from this country to wait on that Prince in England (but be it remembered that our acquiescence in this measure is suspended upon that liberal system of policy which secures to every branch of a dominion an equal participation of rights). This being a measure calculated, in our opinion, to consolidate the interests of a great empire, we therefore subscribe to it; but, certainly, if England should make no other use of this union, than that of securing to herself a pre-eminence in every thing, and converting the Irish into packhorses for the endurance of her burdens; although this people might be forced to carry their riders and their burdens too, yet while starved and beaten they could not subscribe to the equity of their riders; nor would it be easy to persuade them that such a severe and exclusive system of government was calculated to promote the glory and stability of the state. Secondly, it is the fashion in Ireland, and it is the law; to extend the elective franchise to 40 shilling freeholders, and to withhold it from all physicians, lawyers, and divines; all students of colleges who are not members of those corpo-

rations, all merchants, schoolmasters, and scribes, who have not the honour of renting an old bog-house and an acre of a bog-garden, and who cannot, by virtue of those mighty possessions, travel to the hustings barefooted, like the boys of Leitrim and Roscommon, with their brogues and stockings suspended from a sprig of shillelagh, very tightly and neatly poised upon their left shoulder! Into the wisdom of such a system of policy as this, our slender abilities have not enabled us to penetrate. On the contrary, if it rested with us how and in what manner to confer the elective franchise upon the people, we should have vested it in lawyers, physicians and divines; in merchants, students, scribes and schoolmasters, by virtue of their profession, without any other qualification whatever; and in all other classes, possessing a freehold estate of ten or twenty pounds per annum; but not a single vote would we give to the bog-trotters of Leitrim, Galway, Roscommon, or any other bog-trotters whatever, until their governors had first sent them to school to learn to read, and placed them under the fostering wing of a peasantry improvement society, to learn to become men, before they were thrust into an office that can only be filled by citizens. Such is our view of the elective franchise, however it may happen to be opposed by the interests or prejudices of the people, or by the established usages of the state. But our eccentricity does not end here.—We would not, if we had the government of Pennsylvania or Maryland, or Switzerland or the Netherlands, pre-

clude Quakers from the duties or offices of the state, because they do not choose to make oaths, no more than bribery and corruption, the step-ladder to office; and, because they shrewdly observe, that those *prayers*, though often repeated, do not seem to make those who pronounce them much better citizens or christians. Neither would we make their modesty the cloke of our own injustice, since modest men are most likely to prove faithful to their trust; and, in all works of charity, they are the safest agents. With regard to catholic emancipation, or an entire abolition of the penal code, we shall offer our thoughts upon this subject also (although it is probable that the catholic bill *will have passed the house of commons* before these observations shall have met the public eye).* Our opinion then of catholic emancipation is this, that a respectable parliamentary provision for the clergy of that church should have been ANTECEDENT to this measure, would have been the best preparative for it; and as such, should have been preparing the public mind for its reception, twenty years ago. This would have been an act both of justice and sound policy.—Of justice, because as the original possessors of church property in Ireland, they were entitled, on good behaviour, to receive back a part. As christians, it is true, if such they truly be, they will live peaceably under this privation, but their minds

* Such was the appearance of things when we wrote the above passage.

will have a feeling, that it is not pleasant should be cherished by any influential class of the inhabitants of a country.—Of sound policy; because all men will admit, that it is a wise measure to attach an influential class of men to the constitution, and compel them to identify their interests therewith, by a recognition of their own; and to this measure should have been added a more general and liberal education of the people. Such is our opinion of the climax, by which catholic emancipation should be attained in this country; by which *alone* it would be rendered harmless to the protestant interest of Ireland; and to it we shall add, what appears to us to be the only just apology for withholding from any order of men (all orders being equally subject to its burthens) an eligibility to the employments, honours and emoluments of a state. We think then, under a free government, that certain evils must be permitted to exist, and cannot be eradicated. We think *disaffection* to the religion of the state, is one of those evils, and that the existence of an order of men, sworn to eradicate that religion, when it can be done with safety to themselves, is a still greater evil than the other. We think it is a moral impossibility, or next to that, that a people, over whom this order of men have a strong and powerful influence, should not participate with them in this disaffection and hostility. Such an oath as that which we have just mentioned is attributed to the catholic prelacy, as a necessary ceremony of their inauguration into office; but

whether true or false we know not. Hostility on the part of the common people, to those whom they are taught to believe are the enemies of their religion, we did know to have a powerful existence in the hearts of the people of Ireland, nor were the lower classes of the protestant population exempt from a tincture of the same feeling. As this malignant principle, however, so long cherished by the lower orders of our population, appears to be declining, and would gradually yield to the light of education, and to the softening influence of a liberal parliamentary provision for the catholic clergy; to this wise and conciliating policy, in defiance of every base and ignoble passion in ourselves or others, we would humbly recommend our legislature to resort, as the most probable means of uniting all orders of the state in one social compact, and of securing their services in its defence, should the constitution happen to be invaded. The Roman catholic clergy being thus relieved from the necessity of taxing the lower classes of their parishioners, by a wise and equitable arrangement of ecclesiastical revenue; the interests of education and morality should be enforced by law, by public example, and by a good national police; and thus those walls of partition by which dissenters of all classes had been separated from the pale of the constitution, being gradually broken down, it is to be hoped that the light of letters uniting with this wise and conciliating policy, would compel the catholics of Ireland to approximate with the spirit and genius of a

liberal and tolerant religion, and give them an abhorrence of every foul and traiterous design to subvert it, for the purpose of erecting a religious despotism on its ruins. With regard to the feeling entertained by many catholics to the religion of the state (for we do not suppose that this feeling amounts to an ardent and universal thirst for its destruction) we are by no means surprised that it should exist, considering the history and character of that people, that total neglect of their clergy (once in possession of the church revenues of Ireland) which has so long characterized the law and the constitution of Great Britain; that repulsion of their laity from place and power, which to men thirsting for temporal glory, is extremely galling; and lastly, that irritable feeling, so natural to men who regard themselves as a people deprived of their inheritance by conquest, and repelled from the benefits of a constitution, to whose maintenance they contribute by their lives and fortunes. Placing ourselves in the same circumstances, it is not improbable but we should have similar feelings. It is true, our religion is more liberal and tolerant than theirs; but, as there is nothing actually encouraging persecution in their publicly acknowledged doctrines (although certainly a *misconception* of heresy has produced hatred) it is to be hoped that a system of policy, conferring upon the clergy and the people many solid benefits, together with the civilizing hand of education, and a zealous and uniform promulgation of the christian doctrines (of submission to the

constituted authority and of universal charity) by the clergy of their own church, would do much towards rendering the Irish population as respectable in morality and information, as the Scottish peasantry; who for intelligence, moral rectitude, and religious liberality, stand pre-eminent in the annals of the British Empire. If to these means of conciliation and improvement, it were possible to add, a resident nobility and gentry, encouraging by their presence and by parochial associations the improvement of their country, we can have no doubt but Ireland, with the assistance of a good national police, and under the eye of a vigorous government, would attain to as high a degree of moral character and national comfort and contentment, as falls to the lot of most nations; or, as creatures in a state of probation, and whose hour of trial is short, could reasonably hope to enjoy in this state of being.

Having now given the reader a syllabus of those practicable measures, by which we conceive the moral and social interests of Ireland might be promoted, we beg to observe to the impassioned admirers of Irish *political* antiquity, that this antiquity forms no part of the *principle* of this work. We neither sigh for legendary history, although it may be tragical and great; nor for the days of the O'Nialls, O'Sullivan's and Boru's. We think the present days (with all their disadvantages) vastly better; for, if the Dane were to come here now, we are sure they would find Ireland to be a

warm country; but we are not sure, if those feudal Lords, who were the ancient friends of St. Patrick, were now living and had the dominion of this country, whether they would not prove as averse to a reform of religion, as the friends of St. George are to a reform of parliament. Having therefore obtained the first, which we think a great blessing, we should not wish to risque it by a renewal of the days of *yore*; and trust that the same good sense which procured this blessing for the people is not yet dead (*since catholic emancipation, by the help of protestant liberality, has made such rapid strides within the last half century*) and that sooner or later, it will procure for us also a reform of the commons house of parliament.

We have now let out another item of our political principle, and hope that neither the papists nor protestants will knock us on the head, for speaking according to our consciences; although the butcher's wife of Meath market may receive her lesson, and ask us as we pass by, "Well, roving swaddler, when will the ball roll round?" but this mode of salutation, to which we have no legal claim, being the trick of a party, we are at no loss to understand it. It however shews, that faction, in this country, has no occasion to soil its fingers with dirty work, having so many fit hands ready for its execution at a moment's warning. This, to be sure, is an intelligent way of getting rid of objections; namely, that of combining with all necessary *marks and tokens*, a suitable *nick-name*,

as the watch word to farther *civilities*, when a convenient opportunity shall offer.*

Thus it is, that an order of men, essentially the same in all ages and nations (from the priests of Diana to the priests of Dan) have dogged the advocates of truth, and dubbed them with contemptuous names, in order to damn the truth that would have illuminated the people. It is however a mode of policy as weak as it is wicked, since the light of letters will shine, and the intellect that receives its beams, however for a season it may be covered with a film, cannot be destroyed by human invention; although it is certainly astonishing how grossly it has been deceived and humbugged for many successive ages; so much so, that many thousands of those who call themselves christians, and who deny that title to any but themselves, have fulfilled, and do daily fulfil this prophecy of Jesus Christ, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever *killeth* you, will think that he doeth God *service*." Nor is this remark confined to any particular order of men, but extends without distinction of sect or party to all those

* A respectable catholic grazier in the county of Kilkenny, whose dress and gravity of appearance induced the people of one Inn to take him for a priest, and of another for a methodist preacher, assured the Author, that under these false impressions he was ill treated in both houses; a portrait this, of the liberality of Ireland, which furnishes a striking contrast to that of England, where the only article of Captain O'Blunder's creed that is necessary to make him pass *current*, is, his payment of twenty shillings to the pound.

who "bind burdens on men's shoulders, grievous to be borne, while they themselves will not move them, no, not with one of their fingers." *Matt. xxiii. 4.*

With regard to the ancient history of this country, of which our vulgar souls have spoken with so much indifference, be it observed, that this indifference does not proceed from a contempt of Ireland, when it was the school of learning and piety to all Europe, but from a preference of that superior political condition *the country now enjoys!!* and to which providence hath conducted it *through many deep afflictions.* Those who are athirst for that kind of information, will have their thirst *allayed*, by reading Keating's History of Ireland, and other authentic works, for whose authority we leave those to vouch, who are the proper judges; but we shall not call Dr. Ledwich to this office, having seen him lying flat upon his back in Stewart's History of Armagh, a work that we esteem to be the first of our ancient histories, since it has found the method of rescuing our Irish apostle from the grasp of this mighty Antiquary, who appeared, in a momentary conflict, to have got the apostle down; but with great pleasure we perceive that "the cock of the North" has restored St. Patrick to his legs, and on these legs we trust the Irish apostle will now stand, *cœval*

With "Sutton and Potton
Until the world's rotten."

Many are the disputes that have taken place among the learned about our ancient history; but as a repetition of these disputes does not seem to be the best way of making money, nor the best mode of improving the country (the two great objects, we can assure the public, at which we aim) and, as the ancient history of this country, unless for the purpose of illustrating its present condition, forms no part of our plan, we shall endeavour to present the companion of our tour with facts more important to his felicity than those of ancient history, and landscapes more pleasant to his eye, because more modern and better dressed, than any of those castle-landscapes of antiquity, which could boast, we acknowledge, of a sanctity and grandeur that we are now strangers to, and of bloody tragedies also, with which, thank heaven, our improved condition does not so frequently enrich our history (Munster of late excepted).

Those whose thirst for the ancient history of this country has not been quenched by Keating and other authentic historians, are recommended to step over to the libraries of Louvain, the Sorbonne, and the Vatican; where, it is presumed, the most valuable materials of Irish history were conveyed by those literary men who fled to the continent to escape the ravages of their country; or who visited it from choice, when Ireland was a land of saints, and a mart of education to all Europe. In these libraries, it is the opinion of better judges, that materials of Irish history are to be found, infinitely more valuable than those mutilated and

uncertain manuscripts in Ireland, which have escaped the ravages of the Danes and *English*, and from which, some persons much better acquainted with this department of literature than we presume to be, assert, that a connected and authentic history of this country cannot possibly be compiled. From them, however, conformable to the circumstances of other countries in those early ages, we learn with sufficient accuracy, (a fact equally well established by *modern* history) that this country, divided into petty principalities, was torn to the centre by the contentions of its numerous chiefs; and too often, by their want of unanimity and discipline, abandoned to the relentless ravages of every foreign pirate who chose to land upon its coast in pursuit of plunder. The cruelties of the Danes (which are equally complained of by English historians) make the blood to shudder! these murderers, who established themselves in the country, in the two-fold character of merchants and warriors, are said to have reduced the most noble families to such a state of vasalage, as to be dependent on the offal of their tables for subsistence, and even this was sometimes withheld and the most revolting cruelties added, on the slightest pretences! to throw up the children of their captive slaves and receive them on the point of their spears, as a display of military skill, is said to have been the frequent amusement of those inhuman monsters!! this state of society we notice (although ancient history is far removed from the object of this work) to place before the

view of such of our countrymen, as are not well informed on those subjects, the blessings which they enjoy under that *comparatively* merciful and benign constitution of society, with which heaven has blessed us in this realm. And, although we do not presume that the constitution has arrived at all that improvement of which it is susceptible, and may feel it our duty, in the course of these memoirs, frequently to notice its defects; yet we are truly grateful for that political providence by which the petty principalities of Ireland have been consolidated under the British Crown; and we rejoice in the foundation which has been laid for the progressive improvement of our country, in those arts and generous virtues, which constitute the strength and glory of a nation. For the grandeur of past ages, we have no passion. For the advancement of future ages in the scale of political justice and social charity, we have much. To these pregnant sources of private happiness and public morality, the finger of christianity distinctly points. The sword of persecution, in the shape of law, may be directed against the work of reformation. Penal statutes may denounce it, but the cause of humanity has an advocate in the human bosom, and he who has placed it there, and who is conducting society to the blaze of gospel light, through many revolutions, will cause this advocate to be heard, until the interests of reformation triumph. The designs of providence, in relation to the christian church (and of which every christian state is *nominally* a part) are not, however,

accomplished, while laws, diametrically opposite to the spirit of the gospel, have the sanction of christian states; and, if our views of this gospel have not deceived us, investing any order of the clergy, (who, for example and instruction, should stand on a level with the people,) with such a proportion of the public treasure as is not necessary to a respectable retirement, while other orders of clergy and various institutions of charity are wholly unprovided for, is one of those evils. The present structure of the criminal laws, as being sanguinary, and not calculated to reform, is, in our judgment, another: but, it is not our object to point out, in this introduction, all those political institutions by which we think christianity is outraged in christian states. That passion for wealth and power, however, which, since the reign of Constantine, appears to have characterized our bishops, and to have been too much indulged by christian states, is an evil of such magnitude as ought not, (in a work that is truly ambitious of obliging the empire) to be wholly overlooked. We beg that our statesmen would, for once, render a service to the people, and ask those learned divines, whether it is not the very business for which they are paid so amply, to convince us that the gospel is true. This they cannot deny.—Very well. But how shall we know that they believe it themselves; why certainly, by their practice of all those precepts, and their imitation of all that example, with which every page of the gospel is pregnant.—So far so good. Let us begin then

with the founder of this religion.—He had not where to lay his head!—HE WENT ABOUT doing good (this, to be sure, as a clergyman once said to us, “is not now the fashion,” and so the clergy have handed it over to the methodist preachers, as a thing obsolete). Christ gave us an awful parable about Dives, who has not been accused of any other crime than luxury, for it is not even asserted that Lazarus was refused the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. He said, “freely ye have received, freely give.” How far the Bishops hold this to be binding, when the poor curates are petitioning for an increase to their wretched salary, poor farmers for a commutation of tithes; or when they look round and behold their brethren of the Roman catholic church (who were their predecessors in the *vineyard*) dependent upon the contributions of a poor population, it is not our business to decide; but, if the text we last quoted, has no claim whatever upon a generous division of those revenues, which have been so freely and copiously conferred on them by the state, what will they make of this other, “Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” If none of these texts signify a *straw*, why then the learned labours of the Bishops are a *mere bubble*. If their own practice is not to be influenced by those precepts, they will, in vain, recommend disinterestedness to us. We cannot receive the gospel on their authority, because we cannot see two rules of action in the book. One enjoining charity, love and liberality to the laity, and another giving the

clergy a dispensation to treat those precepts with contempt, or to elude their force by a sophistry, which brings into suspicion their belief in the divine authority of those precepts. How is it, that in the late distresses of the English people, when the immortal Camden came and laid an income of 30 or £40,000 a year at the foot of the nation, that not one Bishop in the House of Lords, even so far followed his example as to surrender a fourth of his revenue into the hands of parliament, for the purpose of relieving his country, labouring under a debt that was never before known or heard of in the world. Oh no, this would be something like christianity in *practice*—but perhaps public virtue may not form any part of the Bishops creed, who nevertheless remember that saying of the Gospel, the last with which we shall trouble them in this introduction. “The scribes and pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.” Protestant Bible, *Matt.* xxiii. 2, 3.

As to the advantage, which modern Ireland possesses over the ancient, that, we think, must appear to any impartial reader, who with the smallest degree of attention turns over the pages of her early history: nor is it necessary to travel back to those ages of simplicity, in which the human understanding was led about, like an infant or an idiot, in the leading strings of a silly and superstitious mythology. The *christian* history of Ireland is sufficiently pregnant with proofs of

political imbecility, 'to render a description of its pagan history (if that were possible) quite superfluous. The numerous petty principalities into which the country was divided; the perpetual wars that they waged with each other; the foreign invasions which its weakness and divisions *invited*. Those remnants of pagan superstition, which disgraced it, and the certain prospect that it had of a continuance of these evils, unless an entire alteration of its political condition should take place, may well reconcile the most brain-sick lover of antiquity, to that new and improved state of things which grew out of the conquest of this country by England. It is true, the christian religion had laid the foundation of its moral improvement long before the arrival of this great political event; but that improvement of the national character, which this religion was calculated to produce, was sadly retarded by its petty feuds, its foreign invasions, and those *remnants* of pagan usage that still adhere to it. But this state of things was not owing to the incompetence of the christian religion to reform a nation, and to invest it with wise and liberal institutions, but to the infant existence of that religion, which was not then permitted to breathe in the political institutions of the country; and even to this day has but *a faint and sickly existence* in several systems of European jurisprudence.—We wish we could add, that in this land of freedom she has not been treated with contempt; that her counsels have not been deemed unworthy of notice; and that no glaring remnants

of the savage and sanguinary ages, have been retained among her political institutions in defiance of that broad light which christianity has cast upon them, and by which she has discovered their deformity to every eye that is not closed by prejudice, or violently jaundiced by a corrupt interest. We just now pledged ourselves to the Bishops, not to *trouble* them with another text of scripture in this introduction, and we intend to keep our word.—We shall address no farther TEXTS to them in this INTRODUCTION; but we shall beg leave to ask our statesmen and legislators, who are the guardians of our criminal code (we do not say of our ecclesiastical revenues, because our Bishops conscious that statesmen have enough to do to manage TEMPORALS, have taken the charge of these *holy things* upon themselves) whether the gospel has or has not long since cast its refulgent beam upon that code, and whether this light has been regarded with the least attention, or thought worthy of an hour of their precious time!—We shall not reproach them with disaffection to this object, nor to a wilful neglect of prison discipline, on which the gospel casts a beam as broad; for if there be any doctrine of that gospel that may be called its alpha and omega, it is that of THE RECOVERY OF THE LOST—and if there be any part of that great tragic drama, in which the Son of God was the chief actor, that has a stronger claim than another upon the imitation of christian senators and statesmen, it is undoubtedly those examples of the restoration of sinners to moral character, by the

force of charity, with which every book of the New Testament is pregnant.—This truth has been proclaimed in the British senate, and followed up by arguments drawn from the impolicy of the law—but we shall leave these to lawyers, while pointing the attention of statesmen to that broader light, which the gospel has cast upon the subject, and which, if longer neglected and despised, will oblige us to point their attention to *John* iii. 20., a text of scripture that we did not think we had in reserve for them, when addressing our brief exhortation to the BISHOPS.—

We have heard it said by some, and we believe it is a favourite sentiment of Divines (we should have said a favourite doctrine, for the doctrines and *sentiments* of Divines are sometimes political antipodes) that the gospel has nothing to do with politics.

If by politics be meant, the form of the government of a country, we freely acknowledge that the gospel is silent on that head.—It does not tell you whether the form of your government shall be a republic, a limited monarchy, or a military despotism—but if the state be christian (we do not mean *professionally* christian only) it is immediately brought under the influence of the spirit and institutions of that religion.—It owes the religion which it establishes by law, FEALTY, and if it violate that religion by its political institutions, or by a neglect of those provisions for human happiness, which that religion enjoins, it treats the religion of its own institution with PUBLIC CONTEMPT, and neither proclamations, nor books, nor bibles,

will protect it from popular suspicion, or from that *secret infidelity* which such conduct is calculated to generate.—A military government may be necessary for the preservation of order among a savage people, or for the management of a great and extensive empire; but if this government be truly christian, its institutions will be directed to all those purposes of civilization, morality and social happiness, which uniformly flow from a reception of the gospel, are its *visible* effect, and CANNOT POSSIBLY BE SEPARATED FROM IT.—The gospel has therefore wisely left the forms of civil government to the circumstances of countries—but it tells these governments, in broad language —“You are entrusted with the charge of this people, as a flock is committed to the care of a shepherd, to preserve them from the wolf, and to feed them in the best pastures.” Acting under this conviction, a christian government will exercise its authority for the public good, and when, by a vigorous use of its resources, the turbulent spirit of a ferocious people, or the equally turbulent spirit of faction, has been subdued, it will direct its powers to the adoption of those measures, by which a nation may be civilized and rendered prosperous and free; nor will it, if A CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT, retain the form of a military despotism longer than is necessary to reduce the people to social order, and to prepare them for the enjoyment of a more liberal and happy constitution.—Power being given for this purpose, the vigorous exercise of it, when a turbulent and

rebellious people are to be conquered, is a duty ; and to make every provision for their happiness and freedom, and for their improvement in morality, when they are subdued, is also the duty of that government, and will be faithfully discharged, if the government be truly *christian*.—

Whether, therefore, christian governments (some having mild, and some savage nations to controul ; some dominions lying close together, and others widely extended) may find it expedient to vary their policy ; a subject which the gospel has left to their enlightened reason ; still, if they be truly christian, they will hold their power as a sacred trust ; will exercise it for the good of the people, and however varied their forms may be, their end will be one, that of the PUBLIC GOOD. Such governments, although, in an early period of their history, they may have differed from each other, yet as their principle and design was one, as they acted under the influence of the same religion, and as the same causes produce the same effects in all countries, so the end of a faithful exercise of their christian power, will be a liberal form of government, by which alone the moral and social blessings of the gospel can be communicated to a civilized and enlightened people.

The christian religion is not, therefore, an in-operative principle in the political world. On the contrary, those systems of jurisprudence that have imbibed the largest portion of its spirit, and whose institutions are the most nearly conformed to its merciful designs, are the purest and the

best. The people living under the shade of those laws (a truth strongly exemplified in Pennsylvania) are the most free and happy, commit the fewest crimes, live on the most peaceable terms with their neighbours, and although war is not their profession, they well know how to protect their constitution if it should happen to be invaded; and among such a people, treason against the state is an anomaly in history. To this standard of political perfection, it is probable the British constitution approaches more nearly than any in the old world. It has, however its defects, and these defects will be corrected, if its senators and statesmen believe the christian religion is a divine revelation, and has a paramount claim to their services in the cabinet and legislature. If they believe the christian religion to be divine, they will be influenced by its precepts in all their public measures. They will know, that for those measures they stand still more awfully accountable to God, than for their private actions, since, if the latter should happen to be evil, they themselves only will suffer; but if the former are oppressive and unjust, the sins and misery of millions will be aggravated. Taking this view of the subject, they will perceive, that although religion may be enjoyed without politics, yet there can be no true politics without religion; and that christianity or the gospel of salvation, cannot in this state of being, be separated from the gospel of human duties and of human rights. Should this come to be the sentiment of our public men, our

bishops would then be distinguished by some sacrifices of property to the wants of other orders, that would preach more loudly to the people than twenty written discourses.

A reformation of the criminal laws, and an improvement of prison discipline, would then issue from the legislature. An improvement of the Excise laws would relieve small traders of some vexatious embarrassments, under which they now labour. A reduction of the expense of judicial proceedings (which prove ruinous to those traders) in the higher courts of law, would be provided for, by qualifying the quarter-sessions of the peace to issue decrees for debts not exceeding fifty pounds. An admission of Quakers and other dissenters, to serve in the civil departments of the state, would follow; the Irish Roman Catholic clergy would be provided for; tenant-right would be held more sacred in Ireland than it is, and the butcheries and burnings that have succeeded its violation would be prevented; the tithe-laws would no longer be a source of oppression to the poor; and, lastly, the Irish nobility and gentry would live more at home, and pay more attention to the improvement of their own country.

Should the christian religion obtain its just dominion in the senate, and obtain for us those various acts of reform, we should then indeed be constrained to acknowledge, that the religion of our senators was DIVINE. We should then also have the joy of congratulating our country (for we

are Britons) on its becoming the happiest, as it is already the greatest, empire upon earth.

Having now presented the reader with a synopsis of our political opinions, as a pocket-volume, that may usefully employ his eye in the absence of a fine landscape, we hasten to explain the residue of that plan, upon which we propose to conduct a tour, in which he has done us the honour to become a partner; and we trust, while rolling with us over the hills and vallies of Paddy's land (this note was written on Patrick's day), that we shall be able to provide him with such a fund of entertainment, as shall leave him no room to repent of having taken a seat in our chariot, *the gold burnish* of which, should he happen to be a bishop, will furnish him, as he rolls along, with an object congenial to his taste, and infinitely more entertaining than those hard and ungracious nuts of the old gospel, that we gave him to *crack*, in the course of our political synopsis.

When entering on this tour, we had an original plan in view (the best that we could devise for ascertaining the rural history of this country, and for exhibiting its true condition to the empire;) but, after numerous experiments, we were compelled to abandon it, as the information necessary to complete this plan could only be obtained in a few partial cases, totally inadequate to the fulness and consistency of a national design; and therefore, the tour with which we now present the public, is but the skeleton of a political and statistical survey of Irish estates, with which we had

hoped to enrich our country, had the Irish nobility and gentry been *at home*, and as fully convinced as we were ourselves of the *incalculable* service that it would have rendered to this branch of the British empire, and the *equally incalculable* value of those discoveries with which it would have contributed to enrich the republic of letters! The misfortune however was, that the Irish nobility and gentry were taking the air in Italy and France; and although many of the agents of estates behaved with civility and kindness, yet some of them absolutely refused to give us any information.—Your number of acres, Sir?—your bog?—your upland?—your mines and minerals?—your rents per acre? (a pinching question)—the state of your tenantry, Sir? (still worse.)—How do your magistrates and grand juries discharge their functions in this country?—What is that to you?—your landscapes?—aye, there, thank our stars, we were independent either of English or Irish agents—we could see with our own eyes; but, as for the other questions, sometimes we could obtain no answers at all; sometimes those which were inconclusive; and too frequently, our information was so *satisfactory and full*, that we could build no report upon it that would have obtained credit.

Under all these disadvantages, our parochial (we beg pardon) our survey of estates could not be completed; although a comparative view of the natural history of properties, and of that social policy by which each property is governed,

would be a useful work, more particularly in a country like Ireland, where the duties of landlord and tenant, if accurately defined, have never been accurately performed; or otherwise those murders and burnings of property, that so frequently follow a rejection of the claim of tenant-right (a thing held sacred in England), would not be heard of. In the country just noticed, the duties of landlord and tenant are accurately understood and acted upon. They are reduced into a science. The landlord knows what his land is capable of producing, and what that produce will sell for in the market. He knows what amount of taxes the farmer will have to pay, and what for seed and labour. He knows also that the farmer must have a living profit for the cultivation of the soil, and for the support of his family; and this the landlord allows him. He never taxes the farmer for his improvements; and whether the latter has a short lease or a long one, is of no consequence to him, because his tenant-right is held *sacred*, and he is never dispossessed, while he pays his rent. This, however, is not the usual practice in Ireland; a country, in this branch of its social economy, that is distinguished by all those motley features that mark every other department of its history. Here you will perceive a landlord introducing the English short leases among a people, of whose resources, and even of the resources of his own soil, he is comparatively ignorant. He is also either ignorant of, or inattentive to, the peculiar circum-

stances of the Irish population, which latter is totally dissimilar to that of England. In this country, it is said, that short leases do not diminish the confidence of the tenant in his landlord, because they are the practice of the country, because tenant-right is held sacred there; the land is not taxed for the farmer's improvements; and because the science of farming being understood, and a living profit usually secured to the tenant, short leases do not deprive him of his interest in the sod which he cultivates, and on which his fathers were born. In all these particulars the Irish tenant (we mean generally, for there are some valuable exceptions) differs in his circumstances and feelings from the English. He has confidence only in his long lease, and even with this he is a bad improver; but without it he will not expend a shilling on his land in building, or in any other improvement, not calculated to yield him an immediate profit. He differs also from the English farmer, generally, in another very important particular of his history, namely, the measure of his capital. This, in numerous instances, is totally inadequate to the profitable cultivation of his farm; and if, by incessant labour and a course of prosperous years, he scrapes a little property together, he will not expend that property in improvements, on a short tenure; because in many, yea, in most instances, he would feel that he was holding out a temptation to his neighbour to deprive him of his tenant-right, or to his landlord to tax him for his improvements! To this

mode of conduct, we have acknowledged, there are valuable exceptions (and some of these exceptions shall be noticed in the course of this work); but the cases, however, are too numerous to render short leases a political measure for the improvement of Ireland; and such they will continue, until with short leases (an article of English manufacture) our Irish gentry import a larger stock of English science, and of English integrity to their tenantry and country.

The plan of a statistical survey of the estates of Ireland, with a concise view of the social policy by which each property is governed, had long been the object of our thoughts. We preferred this plan to any other; because it would embrace a department of the existing history of the country, which (although sometimes obliquely noticed) has never been the professed object of any survey; namely, the state of the Irish population, considered in their character of TENANTS—a subject of the highest importance to the peace and prosperity of Ireland; since the legislature will labour in vain, to establish in the minds of the peasantry of that country, a sentiment of respect for the laws and religion of a people that they are taught to regard as conquerors and heretics, until a system of SOCIAL GOVERNMENT, adapted to the circumstances of the country, and administered by a resident nobility and gentry, shall act as the guardian and handmaid of the law. It is by this domestic policy alone, that the wild and vigorous genius of the Irish people can be diverted from

destructive disorders into the channels of a prosperous industry, the sweets of which, united with those of an intelligent morality, the offspring of education, would undoubtedly, in a course of years, effectually transform their character; more particularly if the catholic clergy (delivered from all secular embarrassments, by a liberal parliamentary provision) were placed in a capacity of uniting zealously with their protestant brethren, in labouring to accomplish the moral regeneration of the people.—That this work, however, will never be effectually done, or at least that the machine by which it is carried forward, will be propelled with great difficulty, and meet with many impediments, until five great parties are brought to draw kindly together, in the yoke of parochial societies for the improvement of the poor, is our firm conviction. To every one who knows any thing of the circumstances of Ireland, or even of the science of political economy, those parties will appear to be, *prima facie*, the legislative and executive government, and the nobility, gentry, and clergy of the nation.—Without the last of these orders, it never will be effectually done; particularly in a country where the clergy are held in high veneration by the people, as the Irish Roman Catholic clergy (who govern eight-tenths of the population) are, by the members of their own church.—This influential body, if disposed to do so, could make all the other orders feel the inequality of their powers to the successful movement of this machine. This is a fact well known

in Ireland, and therefore we have attempted to convince the legislature, that it is its duty, and the executive government, that it is its interest, to make a respectable parliamentary provision for the Catholic clergy of Ireland, conceiving it would be impossible for us to carry on the work of reformation without them; and impossible for them, in their present circumstances, to unite cordially with us in any existing scheme for the improvement of the nation.

That the exertions which have been made, by an inconsistent and mutilated system, to accomplish this end, have not been wholly fruitless, the partial effects of that system, as we have seen them displayed in several districts of the country, justify us in acknowledging. The efforts of the few Protestant gentlemen who reside at home, to educate and improve their tenantry, and those of the Catholic clergy to restrain their people from excess, have combined with the partial operation of the peace preservation act, to maintain an external tranquillity in most places; but even this has been often and violently interrupted in several of the provinces, since that act commenced its operation in Ireland; although it is only justice to the character of the new police (the best that we have had in Ireland) to acknowledge, that it has rendered material service to the country. The system however by which Ireland has been governed hitherto, is imperfect; imperfect, we fear, both in its judicial and social policy. The remedies for this would be easy of attainment, if

the nobility and gentry, who have an interest in the soil, would pay as much attention to the subject as its importance demands.—They would then know whether a moveable national police should displace an old resident police, whose inefficiency has amounted to a proverb—whether the Catholic clergy should be provided for by Parliament, or left in a state of perpetual dependence on their poor parishioners—whether the criminal laws as they now stand, or the Pennsylvanian system of jurisprudence, is most likely to diminish crimes, to command the veneration of conscience, and to establish the empire of moral feeling—whether it is a good mode of reconciling a catholic country to a protestant ministry, to compel the minister, by law, to pass by the protestant and catholic demesne of five hundred or a thousand acres, where he could be well entertained, and take up his lodging with a poor catholic peasant or farmer, who has his proportion of the expenses of the county to discharge, and cannot avoid contributing to the maintenance of his own priesthood—and lastly, they would then know the rent which their land is worth, *as produce sells*, and would feel it to be their interest to enable the tenant to improve that land, to be happy in his circumstances, to be moral in his character, and to be loyal to his prince; virtues, which the religion of his country teach him, but which, we fear, will never become characteristics of this nation, until an improvement of the political and social system shall place every member of the body

politic in possession of those benefits to which it is entitled by the nature of the social compact, and to withhold which, is the sure and certain mode of producing disorder in that body, and of embarrassing the operations of a government, by which it should be maintained in health and vigour.

Ireland, since the conquest of the country by England, has been held by freemen from the British crown, in petty principalities, in consideration of the payment of a certain tribute; and by these freemen, the lands are portioned out in lesser tracts to inferior freemen, who constitute the population of the country.—These orders, composing the landed interest and tenantry, being equal in the eye of the law, have, in that respect, an equal claim to the appellation of freemen. But although, as landlord and tenant, they are equally eligible to all the offices of the state, yet the immense ascendancy which property confers upon its possessors, in every country, and that access to place and power, which is its inseparable attendant, gives to the landed interest an almost equal influence over the crown and the people, and renders it the hinge upon which the stability of the one and the prosperity of the other, invariably turn.—In it is concentrated the essential weight of the legislative and executive government:—the crown rests upon it for support; and on the discharge of those duties which it owes to its tenantry and country, the prosperity of these latter is evidently suspended; while to its neglect of those various duties, the

principal misfortunes of that country may be traced as to their source.

It was a consideration of this axiom of political history, that gave birth to the idea of a survey of the estates in each county; a plan, in our view, vastly preferable to a county survey, or even to a parochial survey; although this latter approaches nearer to its object than any other.—But although fully convinced that such a plan is the only one by which the rural history of Ireland could possibly be developed, and the various causes which impede its improvement and provoke its disorders, opened to the view of government, where the remedies of those disorders lie; yet a little experience taught us, that this was not a task which could be accurately and universally performed by a mere traveller; that it could only be executed by intelligent men residing on the spot, AND THAT VERY FEW OF THESE, WOULD AFFIX THEIR NAMES TO A GENUINE REPORT OF ANY SINGLE PROPERTY; and that hence a survey of Irish estates, with a faithful report of the manner in which the duties of landlord, and tenant, magistrate, grand juror, petit juror, jailor, and policeman, are discharged, *would not suddenly make its appearance in this country.* By a long course of observation, and by very extensive intercourse with the inhabitants of all ranks, we have however acquired, what we conceive to be a tolerably accurate view of the state of this nation. We think we know the causes of its misfortune, and these causes (as far, and much farther than was prudent, many

will admit) we have pointed out.—We have also given our opinion of the remedies best calculated to advance Ireland in the scale of morality and happiness. Our observations, such as they are, have, we trust, been the offspring of truth, and of an honest intention to promote the interests of our country.—This we hope will apologize for that freedom of expression which we deemed indispensable to an honest and unflattering discharge of our public duty.—If, in this dress (and we cannot appear in any other) our humble researches can be rendered serviceable to the senator or statesman, they are much at his service; and having presented him with our slender quota of assistance to the discharge of his arduous and important duties, by a few supplementary remarks, we shall hasten to meet the intended companion of our tour, who in expectation of seeing the landscapes of this emerald isle, is anxiously waiting for his humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Supplementary remarks.

THE writer feels conscious that a regular political history of Ireland, from the conquest of that country by England, up to the present period, would furnish him with a more ample field for examining the gradual progress of society therein, and of noticing with chronological accuracy, those political events, by which its complex character and hostile interests have been determined, than is compatible with the limits and multifarious objects of this work. A political history of Ireland, under the direction of a mind well acquainted with all the great public events affecting that country, since the invasion of Henry II., and with the religious, political, and social ramifications of society which now exist there, and enlightened by lucid views of its true interests, would, at this moment, prove an extremely useful addition to the literature of Great Britain.—Destitute of those qualifications however, it could not be executed to any useful purpose, and even with all the natural and acquired knowledge that are necessary for the execution of such a work, its effect would be destroyed by a cringing or by a party principle.—The writer of such a work, should, in every sense of the word, be an independent man—independent of patronage and of party—untinctured with local prejudices; uninfluenced (as Oatharine McCauley said the historian should be) by sect, party, or religion; and view-

ing Ireland in her necessary connection with Great Britain, should apply himself to the consideration of those remedies for her disorders, and those instruments of advancing her improvement, which, are provided by the spirit and genius of the British Constitution, and are compatible with the security and paramount interests of the state; and this, so far as we have entered into the political history of the country, will be found the principle of this work.

That kind of regular political history, however, which we have just noticed, was found incompatible with the multifarious objects of a tour, in which we had long since embarked; nor was its utility, or perhaps we might say its absolute necessity, fully felt, until this work was too far advanced to admit of an alteration of our plan.— In this mixed state therefore, we are obliged to send forth our views of Ireland to the British public; and on an attentive consideration of that aversion with which nature usually turns from scenes of misery, and of that passion for variety, which marks its character, we think it not improbable but the gratifying scenes to which we shall generally introduce the reader (in a province where the *dominion* of a liberal religion, a prosperous manufacture, and the civilizing hand of education, give to the people an humble measure of those comforts which are the birth right of every creature) may prove more acceptable to the public at large, than a history of Ireland, exclusively political; or even a history of the Southern and

Western Provinces, so long and so eminently distinguished by scenes of mourning, lamentation, and woe.—To furnish the English reader, however, who seriously thinks upon causes and effects, with some idea of the miseries as well as of the beauties of our country, we have endeavoured, in this introductory chapter, to combine with a political glance of Ireland at large, a few observations upon the state of Munster, when in possession of its usual tranquillity, and having discharged this debt, we shall turn from the state of society in this province, to those fields of Ulster, where the traveller inhales a purer air, where the laws are more eminently respected, where the revolution is rescued from contempt; and, in a word, where human nature exhibiting those marks, and appearing to enjoy some portion of those rights, which raise it above the civilization of a forest, promise to combine with rational delight, a few pointed and powerful beacons, by which the reader may be conducted in his political navigation of the coast, to some of those historical landmarks, by which the motley character and circumstances of Ireland have been produced and determined.

A concise view.

England conquered Ireland—this work occupied her for some ages—it commenced in the reign of Henry II.—it was completed in that of William III: (a lapse of nearly four centuries)—During this time she was occupied chiefly in forming and extending what was called the English Pale, in

protecting it by putting down strong stakes, building fortresses, adding to its internal force, and sending out that force to subdue the country.—She succeeded—but at an incalculable expense of blood and treasure.—When her conquest however was completed, on what did she depend for her security?—On her military force and on penal enactments; and both, beyond all manner of doubt, had the aspect of a strong necessity at that period—for she could not rely on the attachment of the natives, either to her laws or to her religion.—In proportion however as her government acquired stability, she relaxed the severity of her penal laws; and it is at this period of her history, we are to look for the most impolitic oversight that has marked the conduct of England in her management of the sister country.

We have already noticed that the Roman Catholic Clergy, (that great influential order of the Irish population,) had been stripped of all its possessions, and their religion denounced by the most violent enactments; but still although the government plainly saw that the catholic religion could not be extirpated by penal laws, (for instead of receding, it is now making rapid inroads upon the protestant religion in Ireland, no less than fifty protestants having been proselyted to popery in one parish) yet no provision was made for the clergy of that church, in whose minds and in whose interests, the English revolution and religion had planted an imperishable dagger.—A relaxation of the penal laws, as it related to the Catholic laity of

Ireland, was good; but while the dagger which had been planted in the bosom of the priesthood; by the revolution, remained unextracted, the cure was accompanied by too many caustic recollections to heal the wound.—The catholic laity of Ireland, consistent with the character of the revolution, could not in justice demand to be made partakers with their protestant fellow subjects of the ruins of power, without at least giving to these subjects the most satisfactory securities, that *that* civil and religious liberty, which the revolution had waded through seas of blood to procure, should not be endangered by the well-known intolerance of the Romish religion, or the allegiance of its professors to the see of Rome; but the debt due by England to their clergy was of another character, and should have been paid.—It was, and it is, a debt of justice and of sound policy—a debt, to which long possession and ancient usage gave them an indefeasible claim—it is a debt, the payment of which would have a powerful tendency to produce contentment, to reconcile the catholic clergy to the political *regime* of the revolution, and to unite them with other orders of clergy, in one endearing bond of civil union.—It would confer no new power upon the catholic body, save and except the power of doing good; the power of relieving a naked and starving peasantry from the maintenance of two orders of priesthood, by their labour; and were there no other motive to such a regulation, than the abolition of this cruel and oppressive yoke, that alone would be sufficient.

It has been said that overtures of this nature have been made to the catholic clergy, and made in vain.—We do not believe this statement.—Some tenders of a *regium donum* were perhaps proposed (and if offered as the purchase of their independence, of two evils they did well to choose the least) but we here speak of a provision to be made by act of parliament for the catholic clergy, out of the ecclesiastical estates which they formerly enjoyed, and of which parliament alone should have the power to deprive them. In a regulation of this nature, we have no idea of placing them on an equality with the clergy of the established church; nor would that be necessary.—The latter have families to provide for—the former are professionally single men.—In any new arrangement of ecclesiastical property, comprehending a provision for the catholic clergy, and a reformation of the property of the church, that provision should be in a proportion of two to one, in favour of the establishment. This is a regulation which the circumstances of Ireland now loudly call for; and we venture to assert, that if the bishops of our church had but £2000 per annum, (a sum perfectly equal to the maintenance of their rank in the legislature) the catholic bishops £500, the priests of the establishment £400, those of the catholic church £200, the curates of our church £100, and those of the catholic church £50, they would be better men than they are at present, would unite more cordially in any scheme for the improvement of their country; and under the direction of a government, acting under

the influence of a noble determination to tear up by the roots those violent inequalities, which are the parents of jealousy, discord, and disunion, would accomplish such a regeneration of Ireland, as would amply repay England for so great and glorious an achievement. In such a system of reform, the clergy of inferior churches, we mean, of inferior claims, should not be forgotten; and in the contemplation of such an object, if the catholic clergy and laity shall be consulted in county meetings, or otherwise, and by a majority of votes protest against the acceptance of so wise and salutary provision for their church, we should then consider that parliament had done its duty, and that catholic Ireland cannot be united to protestant England by any of those civil bonds, that are compatible with the genius of our government and constitution.

Whether the catholic gentlemen of Ireland have exerted themselves more ardently to obtain political power, or to procure for their starving peasantry, good food, good houses, and warm clothing, we shall leave to be determined by the condition of their peasantry at home; by the travels of those peasantry to England, to procure employment; and by all those county meetings of the catholic body for the advancement of the comforts of the poor, of which their history, in a residence of forty years in Ireland, does not enrich our memory with one solitary example; although we have heard of many meetings convened, for the purpose of procuring the comparative bauble of emancipation. Not so the Quakers, who however defective in other

points, have not yet forgotten that rule of their religion, which obliges them to provide for the poor of their own community. This, we admit, the catholic gentlemen of Ireland could not do—but when they have done what Zaccheus the Jew did, we shall then give them credit for wishing to do the rest—that is, have given half of their goods to feed the poor.—But, to come to the point—whatever influence these gentlemen may have in their respective neighbourhoods, it cannot reasonably be expected they should more zealously exert this influence to tranquillize the minds of the peasantry, than to provide for their bodies those accommodations that are indispensable to the comfortable enjoyment of existence.—If the peasantry are poor and discontented, it is evident that neither duties have been effectually done, and therefore we would strongly recommend the government, by wise provisions, to call to its aid the clergy of both churches, in the formation of a scheme for the improvement of the peasantry of Ireland; for on this, much more than on the communication of political power to the catholic laity, depends the prosperity of the nation.

With regard to the catholic laity, of whose rights we may appear to have spoken with lightness; we wish it to be distinctly understood, that we conceive all religions which, like that of Quakerism, never aspire after political honours and distinctions, may be safely confided in; and on this account, if we possessed the power, we should undoubtedly employ Quakers, and all persons of

similarly modest and unambitious views, in the civil offices of the state; and for this purpose, we should expunge from our statute book, all those relics of pagan usage, which form a barrier between the state and them. The case however becomes different, when the professors of a religion distinguished by its intolerance to all others, come forward to DEMAND POWER.—This demand will operate as a signal to every other religion to stand upon its defence.—The history of catholicism in other countries will be viewed with deep attention; and if, in any of these countries, even revolutions in favour of civil liberty, have been distinguished by that religious intolerance which is the great political deformity of the Romish church, English protestants will require the aids of catholic faith, to inspire them with confidence in catholic professions of liberality. A few catholic lawyers and other laymen, animated by those liberal feelings that are almost inseparable from the bar, may measure the political genius of their church, by the physical genius of their own constitution or profession, but never upon earth was there a more fallacious standard.—Should their church have the good fortune to recover that political power which it forfeited by the revolution, these gentlemen would then know more perfectly the measure of their consequence.—In the trial of a protestant for heresy, it would perhaps be similar to the consequence of that fly, which commanded a coach, rapidly moving, to stand still, but not finding itself obeyed, mounted on the wheel to enforce

its instructions. We do not say that the admission of a few catholic Peers and Commoners into the British legislature, would produce a subversion of the constitution; but we can assure them that this is the evil of which scrupulous protestants are apprehensive; and they regard the establishment of popery in Ireland, as a *ne plus ultra* to which the political zeal of the catholic body is directed. In this it is true protestants may be deceived, and acting upon this principle, may do injustice to their catholic fellow-subjects; but they cannot lose sight of that religious liberty which was the great political blessing of the reformation; nor of the establishment of this blessing in England and her colonies, by a revolution dyed in blood; nor yet of the examples of revolutionized Spain and her revolutionized daughter, neither of whom have yet, we believe, opened their arms to the temples, and to the hearts of protestants. They have accepted their services, it is true; and, as men, they have opened to them the bosom of their country; but as heretics, (should they presume to propagate their principles) we presume, the prisons only would be ready for their reception. Perhaps our information is defective, and the protestant religion unknown to us, publicly exercised in those countries, and equally with the catholic, protected by the laws.—We hope so, most sincerely; but if such be the fact, this glorious news has not enlivened the walls of our retirement. In that retirement, however, we recollect to have read a document in one of the public papers, pro-

fessing to be a copy of a proclamation of the celebrated Bolivar, making the holy Roman religion the religion of the state, forming an army for its defence, and prohibiting (if our memory has not oddly deceived us) the intrusion of any other. So if all these things be true (and we sincerely hope they are not) Catholics need not wonder that protestants, who value religious liberty as the first of all human blessings, and civil liberty only as the second, find it difficult to divest themselves of those apprehensions, which history of this kind *forces* upon their feelings—for although, in relation to the catholics of these countries, this volume of evidence may amount to nothing, and even all which we have seen and felt in Ireland, a vision that deceived our senses, yet protestants cannot but be influenced by certain appearances of facts, and under that influence they cannot but look forward to the consequences of a continual elevation of catholicism in the scale of power.—To arrive, say they, at certain evidence of our error, a dangerous experiment must be tried, and although the result of this experiment may be glorious, yet it can be only known to our posterity; and, therefore, it behoves us to pause at the threshold, and seriously consider, before we enter a door, from which, like that of eternity, there can be no retreat.

Had the Catholics of Ireland furnished their protestant fellow-subjects with evidences of their zeal for the improvement of the Irish peasantry, and embarked with them in endeavouring to

PROCURE A PRACTICAL REFORMATION OF THE LAWS, AND REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY—Had they, in the pursuit of this universal benefit, merged all particular interests of their own; a conduct so apparently generous would have been well calculated to remove suspicion and to inspire confidence.—This course, however, they did not pursue; the consequences they have felt from experience. But certainly those protestants who have seen the union of the two countries, and who have heard much said of the great sacrifices which Irish Roman Catholics have made to their own *selfish* expectations; and in the progress of their review, when these protestants look narrowly at the evidences of catholic sympathy with the suffering poor, and at the honourable fulfilment of their POMPOUS RESOLUTIONS at Kilkenny, in relation to Mr. Magee, who had suffered deeply in their cause.—Those protestants, we say, who know and reflect upon these things, and who ground their opinion of these patriots upon what *they suppose* to be facts of history, will not (to use the phraseology of our country) be in a hurry to place their liberties in such uncertain hands—for although, upon the whole, they may consider the Union to have been a measure of general expediency, yet they cannot lose sight of the means by which it was procured; nor can they avoid contrasting the peace, plenty, and comparative happiness of Ireland, prior to the Union, with her present deplorable condition; however, as Britons, they may subscribe to a consolidation of

the legislative functions of the two countries.—This, we believe is the chain of reasoning, upon which many protestants alight, in the course of their reflections upon the catholic claims; and although it is justified by strong appearances of evidence, yet we should not *for our own part* apprehend the slightest danger to the cause of liberty from the admission of a few catholic peers and commoners into parliament.—We are certain, if it ended here, that it could do no harm, and might do much good.—It would add so much talent to the house; and from the exertion of this talent, the most scrupulous protestant could have nothing to apprehend—on the contrary, we think it very probable, that this talent would be exerted in the cause of liberty. If all the catholic peers are such men as Lord Fingal, their personal virtue would entitle them to every distinction that could be conferred on them, consistent with the safety of the constitution; and were we possessed of a seat in parliament; when the House divided upon Mr. Canning's question, the catholic peers should have had our support. We would do the same thing for half a dozen catholic commoners (*of our native country*), and we would support their promotion to a certain extent, in the army, navy, and courts of law; but there they should stop, for us. We would not open the cabinet to them, nor the very first posts of authority in the departments we have noticed; not, at least, until we had proved them, LONG and WELL in the inferior departments of the state; until we had seen how

our provision for the catholic clergy had worked upon the religious liberality of their church, and our admission of a few catholic peers and commoners into parliament, had worked upon the miseries and misfortunes of our country.—Should we perceive that these encouragements had produced *very happy effects*—that confidence was again coming round, and that Catholics and we were every day drawing nearer to each other's arms; that their church had at length come out ALL GLORIOUS from the dregs of INTOLERANCE, and had left behind it every idle dream of ambitious PRE-EMINENCE—then, but not till then, we would cast our protestant suspicion to the winds, and trampling under foot those monuments of past ages, which have threatened the catholic and protestant with an eternal separation, we would rush, with hearts as warm with the love of mankind as Irish blood can make them, into the arms of our catholic brethren and fellow-subjects of that long-injured and ever-beloved country; which, though destined by the gods to be the seat of genius and love, appears to have been converted, by Pandora, into a residence for devils in the shape of men!

As a preparation of catholic Ireland for a progressive admission to the honours and emoluments of the state, we would not only strongly recommend a parliamentary provision for the catholic clergy, to be immediately adopted; but also a meeting of delegates from the two churches to be forthwith summoned, in order to examine the evidences for and against the AUTHORITY AND ANTI-

QUITY of a doctrine, which forms THE MOST POWERFUL BARRIER to that system of political exclusion, of which catholic Ireland has so long and so loudly complained—namely—THE BISHOP OF ROME'S SPIRITUAL SUPREMACY IN THESE COUNTRIES.—If that constitutional provision for the catholic clergy, of which we are the humble advocates, were once granted by the state, we see no reason why they should shrink from a fair and open examination of this doctrine.—It is by such a public examination, and by such only, that the principal political wall of partition between protestants and catholics, would be broken down.—It is by such an examination alone, that the truth or error of its foundations could be made manifest to the great body of the people.—Let the event of this examination be what it might, it is our opinion that the catholics would profit by the experiment.—Should its authority and antiquity be proved, the protestant prejudice against it must vanish, and this, to all British and Irish catholics, would be a material point gained—for it is this spiritual allegiance, dragging all temporal interests in its train, which, in spite of all that has been said upon the subject so far, deprives them of our confidence.—If proved, upon a public examination of its evidences, to be founded in falsehood; it would, in our humble opinion, be the interest of the catholic church in these dominions to renounce it; as the folly of holding connection with a power that history has instructed protestants to view with suspicion, must be evident at the first blush—nor can any

thing justify it at the bar of reason, except a positive injunction of the SUPREME BEING to his universal church, to yield itself implicitly to the direction of that SEE.—Some eminent historians maintain, that the Pope's supremacy was not acknowledged in Ireland, for several centuries after christianity was established in that country—but the truth or falsehood of this assertion, would be most satisfactorily arrived at, by a free, open, and independent examination of the subject, in a meeting of learned delegates from the two churches; and to this examination, we beg to turn the attention of the public; for it is now high time, that the torn and distracted country which forms the subject of this work, should have a principle involving such serious political consequences, and so intimately interwoven with the peace of Ireland, and even with the safety of the state, set at rest.

The principal political and domestic causes, by which Ireland has been agitated, have been already glanced at in this concise Introduction; but to enter upon a minute description of its disorders, since the disturbances of Munster drew forth the inimitable talents of O'Leary, would be incompatible with the limits and multifarious objects of this work.—Let us however attempt briefly to notice them.—Those which assumed the most serious appearance, originated in Ulster, the most happy and prosperous district of that country, towards the close of the last century.—In fact the people were so well off there at this period, that they appear to have misunderstood the value of their

blessings, and like Jeshurun to have waxed fat, and kicked at each other with such might, as in a few years to deprive their country of its political independence; a property, of which, the quarrels of some, and the selfish views of others, rendered that country unworthy; nor is it surprising that the British minister should avail himself of these divisions to accomplish the union of the two countries, and thereby relieve the government from a serious load of trouble and expense. The motley proceedings of the province at this period baffle the skill of an ordinary historian.—At one time we see the presbyterians and catholics, uniting to procure parliamentary reform and catholic emancipation—to the former of which the presbyterians of Ulster were bound, by their ardent love of liberty, and their luminous views of justice—to the latter of which, the catholics were attached, by that principle in nature which leads every man to seek his own particular good.—However different their objects and their motives of action (and we conceive them to have been very different indeed) we nevertheless find them united for a season in a political association to procure from government a redress of grievances; even walking hand in hand to their meeting houses and chapels, while this union held; and it is highly probable, if they had confined themselves to a *constitutional* association, and that the Irish parliament had not voted away its own existence, that all which they then sought; would have been granted to them long since; but neither the members of that house nor their consti-

tuents, had the virtue which was necessary to save their country; and hence they were soon outgeneraled by the power and policy of England.—During the administration of Earl Fitzwilliam, the country appears to have been flattered with amusing promises of catholic emancipation, and parliamentary reform, so far as they might be conceded with safety to the state—the sensation produced by these promises was so strong and sensible, that the Irish parliament, (on the motion, we believe, of Mr. Grattan,) voted £3,000,000 to Great Britain in support of the war—but the cup of expectation which had produced such a sudden delirium of the nation, was soon dashed from its lips.—Earl Fitzwilliam resigned, and the disaffection of the people to the existing order of things, from thenceforth assumed a more deep and serious character.—The rebellion of 1798, appears to have followed this event; but its sudden extinction was more effectually secured by the divisions of the country, than by the British arms; for the latent animosities of protestant and papist soon broke out, and rent asunder the temporary union of catholic and presbyterian, while the members of the established church, uniting together in orange associations and corps of Yeomanry, fell with infinitely more dreadful severity upon the other parties, but particularly upon the suspected catholics, than even the king's troops.—A recollection of the agitated state of the country at this period, and of the cruelties which these parties, as they happened to possess power, exercised upon each other, is suf-

ficient to make the blood of humanity shudder!—The Orangemen, at this period, were considered as the principal support of the British government and institutions.—Animated, perhaps, by a recollection of past injuries, they proceeded to the utmost extremities of violence; nor, in the hour of political frenzy did they seem to remember, that the tale of injuries was not theirs alone, but was equally the property of the parties which they opposed and persecuted.—It is highly probable that these acts of violence, had not their origin in the positive mandate of the minister, since Lord Cornwallis, on assuming the vice-royalty, put them down by the express instructions of his court; but it appears also probable, that the Irish government, previous to his Lordship's administration, feeling the support which it derived from these divisions, and from the high church policy of the Orange association, did permit this latter to proceed to the most cruel and unconstitutional extremes; for respectable Roman catholics were not only banished from Ulster and their properties destroyed; but evidence of treasonable proceedings, whether true or false, was extorted from many individuals, by torture, in the very heart of the metropolis, and even at the castle gates!—However government at length put forth its nervous arm to destroy by one equal system, those violent inequalities of torture and rebellion, by which the country was convulsed; and it has since, for the most part, to its honour, put down, by its example and authority, all associations and public

exhibitions calculated to disturb the peace, and to wound the feelings of the people.—

At this awful juncture, when banishment and burning of property, were proceeding with awful strides in Ulster, and when humanity and law were absolutely unhorsed in Ireland, Mr. Woolsey Atkinson of Portadown, an Orangeman and an Officer in the constitutional corps of his province, set an example of humanity to his country, that deserves to be engraven on the walls of his town.—Of his charitable exercise of *a little rural power* we have given one striking example, in a subsequent part of this work, and shall say nothing more of his constitutional and christian conduct in this place, than “Go thou and do likewise.”

The mischiefs produced by the disputes of Ulster, in the hour of its political insanity, appear to have extended far beyond the limits of that province. The catholics who fled from Ulster carried with them, no doubt, to the other districts, a very black picture of the treatment which they had received at home; and some are of opinion, that the demoniac rage with which the protestants of Wexford were soon afterwards massacred in the rebellion of 1798, originated in that event; but from circumstances which we shall presently notice, it is evident that the habitual feeling of the peasantry of Ireland needed no such aliment; for the rebels, when in possession of Vinegar-hill (a lofty prominence that stands over the town of Enniscorthy, where, in an action with the king's troops, they received their final

overthrow), repeatedly arrested, and put in terror of their lives, the peaceable quakers of that neighbourhood, although distinguished for their principles of peace and charity to the poor—told them, that so soon as their enemies in arms were disposed of, that their turn would come on; and that, in the mean time, if they should attempt to hold their *big* meeting (the quarterly assembly of the province) in that town, they should be burned to ashes in their meeting-house, and neither man nor woman permitted to escape.—In our travels through that district, we heard tales of a very different character, concerning some catholic clergymen, to whose influence several protestant gentlemen were indebted for the preservation of their lives.—But the sufferings of the quakers, and the threats of the rebels, noticed above, were communicated to the author by some members of that society, on the spot; for we travelled to the scene of action unarmed, at that dangerous period, and had the pleasure of perceiving our friends the quakers hold their *big* meeting in peace, with the bodies of their persecutors (to some of whom they had been actual benefactors) lying dead upon the field; and we could not but admire the goodness of that Providence, which had opened a way for those peaceable people to hold their religious meeting (in a place where all other forms of public worship had disappeared), by the discomfiture of the rebels, exactly two days before that meeting commenced, and to which some were travelling from distant parts of the

island, on the day of the action, not knowing what might befall them, but conceiving it to be their duty to assemble with their brethren in that place, they committed the protection of their persons to the God of armies, and the event proved that they could not have committed their cause to better hands. The treatment of these quakers, is not, however, the only proof which stands recorded in the memory of the country, of the existence of a cruel and sanguinary feeling in the minds of the peasantry towards those whom they may regard as their religious enemies; and their treatment of those quakers must induce us to suppose that they view all protestants, without distinction, in this light (although their resentments have since taken a wider range); nor can any thing furnish a more striking contrast with the characteristic hospitality of the country, than this feeling.—The people, however, are deeply oppressed—their religion, at one period, was proscribed—their clergy were stripped of vast possessions, and to this day are unprovided for—the feelings resulting from this combination of events are natural to men who can scarcely maintain existence on the soil which they cultivate—to whom the story of English (synonymous with Sassanagh or protestant) usurpation and oppression, has been transmitted by their fathers; which they themselves transmit to their children, in the national song and funereal dirge, which in the Irish language are particularly moving) and possessing by nature warm hearts, with a strong attachment to

their country and religion, a dislike equally strong to all persons and things which they regard as opposed to these; and a mind in its rude and uncultivated state, that receives, but never reasons upon its prejudices; too seldom discriminates between the good and evil shades of a cause, religiously and politically different from its own; and in a great national convulsion, being borne down by a sanguinary rage for the destruction of its supposed enemies (a rage resulting at once from a feeling of hatred and of oppression), appears to be totally incapable of making those just distinctions, to which reason and moral principle would direct a less violent, but more cool and reflecting people. These are the views, which facts appear to justify us in taking, of the apparently sanguinary character of the Irish peasantry; and they are not dependent upon that solitary case at Enniscorthy, which we have just noticed.—Too many are the crimes to which our unfortunate countrymen have been driven, by acts of oppression, founded in a melancholy concatenation of events and prejudices planted deep, by education, in their ignorant and ill-tutored minds. Next in enormity to their treatment of the Wexford quakers, may be ranked their sanguinary thirst for the blood of some British officers, that their civilized allies the French had taken prisoners at Killybegs; an account of which we heard related by one of those officers soon after his enlargement. With difficulty, it is said, they were restrained by their allies from murdering those prisoners of war; and

we have heard it asserted, that the French general protested, he would not have landed his men upon the coast, had he known the character of the people, on whose assistance he was instructed to depend. However, they were soon taught by French soldiers, that British prisoners of war were not to be murdered in cold blood. Some French officers drew their swords upon these bloody and inflamed bigots, threatened to cut them down, and did actually, we believe, hang several of them for a violation of the laws of war.

Now in this view of the character of the Irish peasantry, it is our anxious desire, through all the warm, generous, and cruel features of the portrait, to pierce deep into their source, and to be governed by truth and by facts alone.—In the revolution, which subdued them, but which making no provision for their wants, left their injuries and their prejudices to gain strength with ages, perhaps the deepest political spring of the miseries and disorders of the Irish peasantry may be discovered.—In the opposition of their religion to the religion of their conquerors (like that which distinguished the orthodox Jews towards the heretical Samaritans) another source of hatred and discord may be discovered, which, considering that unqualified spoliation of their church, which distinguished the progress of our arms, was well qualified to act as a powerful auxiliary to the other.—To these sources then, and to these alone, we trace that immense mass of political and moral evil, of which Ireland has been, unhappily too

long, both the instrument and the victim.—The disturbances of Ulster had scarcely subsided, when the rebellion of 1798 broke forth with fury in Wexford—of the cruelties which were perpetrated in that county, we shall cite no farther instances—they are already too well recorded on the page of history. When this was put down, and all appeared to be calm and regular, on a sudden a new scene of confusion burst out in Connaught; it was carried on by a banditti, denominated Threshers and Carders, from the threshing and carding cruelties, which they committed under cover of the night—then came the Caravats and Shanavats of Munster—then the Ribbonmen of Connaught and elsewhere; to say nothing of the system of parish-fighting, by which the country has been agitated time immemorial; nor of the regular battles at fairs and markets, by which many lives have been lost, and a much larger number rendered incapable of labour; so that a single year has hardly passed over Ireland's head for the last half century, that that deplorably ulcerated head has not been made to bleed afresh, by the contentions of her children; and all this, with as much excellent materials for improvement as any country upon the earth can boast of. That this material, however, has not been cultivated as it ought, and that, up to this day, many parts of the country present to the eye of humanity consequent scenes of desolation, are facts too notorious to require proof.—It is time therefore for the legislature seriously to lay its hand upon

those abuses, by which Ireland continues to be impoverished and distracted, and to devise some other means for her regeneration, than those of mere military force.

A people proverbially hospitable and kind cannot be *naturally* cruel.—A bad system of education and domestic government, must either produce the bad dispositions and actions which mark their character, or, if native depravity exists, must act with force upon that depravity, and violently rouse it into action; and in either case, the necessity for a reform of that system, is obviously imperative.

A peasantry, in no better circumstances than those of Munster and Connaught, where a labourer, for the support of his wife and children, (in several parts of those provinces at least) can only procure six or eight pence per day for his labour, and some years since, not even so much; and where many labourers cannot obtain constant employment, on any terms whatsoever, cannot in the nature of things feel an attachment to that order of society, by which they are thus deeply injured and oppressed.—Destitute of a cow to give his children milk—without a comfortable cottage to shelter him from the storm—without constant employment—and when employed, not half paid for his labour—compelled to pay at the rate of eight, ten, or twelve guineas per acre, for the manured ground on which he raises his potatoes for the support of his family, and not an acre of the soil he cultivates in his own possession; as is

probably the case with more than half a million of labourers in Ireland; what but the apprehension of a summary punishment, could restrain a wretched human creature in those circumstances, from unlawful combinations, or from open rebellion, if a seductive prospect of its success was presented to his view.—Should he happen to possess an acre or two of land, unless he rents it immediately from the lord of the soil, which seldom happens, he is sure to pay a price for it totally disproportioned to the value of its produce (not less, in some instances, than from five to six pounds for a single acre).—On the produce of this acre contributions will be levied by the tithe-proctor, that, to a poor man, burthened with a rack-rent, a large family, and the contributions of his own church, will be felt grievously oppressive (and therefore the legislature should take the two orders of clergy clearly off his back) and, in these circumstances, should his children become marriageable and form virtuous attachments, what must be his feelings, if he can scarcely muster the priest's wedding-fee, and cannot, as in some cases, give the new-married couple, even a cabin and a pair of blankets to begin the world!—Thus, not in one or two, but in many thousands of instances, does the cruel destiny of an Irish peasant, stare him in the face; and that too, at a moment when his sons are entering on the duties of a citizen, and preparing to contribute to the strength and glory of the empire.—If these are circumstances not calculated to sow

seeds of disaffection in the hearts both of parents and children, to that order of society by which they are thus deeply oppressed, why then human nature must have altered its character; nor will the poor ignorant peasant always distinguish, as he ought, between the rapacity of his domestic rulers and the laws of his country, which, as they now stand, have no power to control it. Too often, in the bitterness of his soul, he will confound in one common anathema, the government of his country and the government of his landlord—the tithe-law and the tithe-jobber—the church and the parish cess—and in some instances, that veneration of his priesthood which had been interwoven with his existence, has been seen to yield to the maniac rage, with which he exposed his life, in an impotent conflict with the customs and institutions which oppress him.

Now until those oppressions, with that horrible night of ignorance which overwhelms the Irish peasant's mind, are removed by the joint exertions of the government and the country (and to which exertions, *if possible*, the Irish catholic clergy should be made a party) this country will never be radically cured of its disorders.—You may mow down successive crops of the people—but the seeds of disaffection and rebellion, in such a state of society, cannot be exterminated.—The scorpion egg will continue to be hatched; and when the process of incubation has been perfected, a new progeny will start forth.—IT IS THE CURE OF IGNORANCE AND POVERTY, AND NOT THE COMMUNICA-

tion of political power, that is wanting to the people of Ireland.—Accomplish this, by a mitigation of their burthens, by an illumination of their minds, by encouragement to domestic improvement (through societies formed in every parish for this purpose), and lastly, by such a provision for the clergy of the two churches, as shall cut off at one stroke all jealousies, all oppression of the poor, and all well-grounded murmuring of the people; which last is not the least of those remedies that would heal the disorders of the country; and, in a quarter of a century after the application of those remedies, we are grossly deceived, if the sun, in his periodical visitation of the western world, would not cast his beams upon a new country.

In the course of our travels through Munster in 1819, we had some opportunity of perceiving the character of that *social* structure, which has since burst out in all the horrors of insurrection upon that province. While viewing the country around Rathkeale, two or three unfortunate men had been destroyed by *fracas* in the neighbourhood of that village—the corse of one of these was brought into the town while we were there.—Another, who had been employed by a gentleman to fish on that portion of the river Deel, which pursues its course through the Southwell estate, happening to trespass on that which passes through Lord Courtenay's, is said to have been seized by certain servants or tenants on the latter property, who fastened him in a net, and dragged

him through the river until he expired. Murders in open battle are now become common, at Killaloe, Newport, and other towns in the county of Tipperary; and it is even said that certain gentlemen have adopted the quarrels of those factions, and in some instances have exerted their influence to protect the murderers from justice. A battle was fought in the town of Newcastle, in the county of Limerick (as was publicly reported) on Sunday, the 27th of June instant (1819) in which many persons were dangerously wounded; and, in our passage through Clare, we saw one or two magistrates tried at the assizes of Ennis (the capital of that county) on a charge of having acted incorrectly in some of those ferocious conflicts for which this part of Ireland is so scandalously eminent; and yet this is only a part of the history of Munster, in its most regular and tranquil state.

When we contemplate those public outrages of law and justice, in a land assuming to be christian—and consider the cluster of evils, which, by a corrupt system of society, have been permitted to gather strength, until social order has been convulsed to its very centre.—When we behold virtuous magistrates intimidated, the lives and properties of virtuous citizens rendered totally insecure—unfortunate men incarcerated and threatened with death, professedly under the authority of law, for a mere act of nature—the nobility abandoning their country to its misfortunes; and extracting from it, by a rack-rent system, the

last farthing of their income, in order to spend it in another country—the two orders of clergy supported by impolitic and oppressive imposts upon the poor, from which the demesnes and stock-farms of the rich are usually exempted—the poor badly employed and badly paid for their labour, and every order extracting from them all, which can be extracted by law and custom; while no man, or at least no competent association of the country, appears to care for their souls (as is evident from the manner in which their bodies are treated), we are not surprised that these poor creatures should be stung to madness—that they should learn to despise social order, and even treat life itself with contempt, as a gift not worth the possession, in a country where misery, ignorance, prejudice, and oppression are forced upon them by a constitution of society which they have no power to resist.

Travelling from Limerick to Askeaton (a village celebrated in Irish history by the magnificent ruins of a Franciscan abbey, which once flourished there), we had an opportunity of observing a *rape-hunt*—another singular amusement of this country; but nothing new to us, as we had heard large accounts of its operation in other places; but whether, like pugilism, it is an amusement conceded to the taste and feelings of the people, by a wise government, or whether it is a relict of the polity of the ancient god Moloch, we did not stop to inquire.—A posse of country-people were pursuing a man, with great clamour, whom

they wished to hand over to the law, to satisfy the vengeance of a young woman, who was then pregnant by him.—This lady, as three spectators of the hunt (soldiers attached to a party of the 23d foot, who were stationed at the village of Kildimo on this road) informed us, had been with child by this man for the last six months, and finding neither threats nor entreaties, sufficiently powerful to obtain his consent to the matrimonial ceremony which was to make an honest woman of her, lodged informations against the man, and having procured a warrant, animated her neighbours to seize the offender, and hand him over to the merciful arm of the law; no refuge remaining for her injured *chastity*, but that of washing it clean in the blood of the offending lover.—The hunt was hot and noisy, and the pursuit fervent, for the man had fled.—We have not yet heard whether the hunt succeeded in running down the game; but if it succeeded, we entertain no doubt but the law will prove as merciful as the lady; and that between them, the insatiable vengeance of disappointed passion will be amply glutted. Whether this victim shall be transmitted to heaven or to hell, by Jewish or by Christian artillery, is not now the question; but while reflecting on this transaction the next morning (at our hotel, as we lay awake in bed) an allusion of St. Paul to some offender of the Jewish law, “who died without mercy by the hand of two witnesses,” presented itself; and recollecting that the British *christian* law requires only *one* witness in this

case, and that the blood of man has sometimes been shed upon the evidence of a single prostitute, we were unable to decide, whether the Jewish or the Christian artillery (as we Britons have chosen to organise it) is, *ipso facto*, the most destructive.—However, in the chaos of our reflections, happening to fasten upon the two WITNESSES, and to catch a glimpse of the *horns* of the altar and THE CITY OF REFUGE, our imagination, ever precipitate, concluded, upon the whole, that human nature was better off under the law of Moses, than under the law of England (a horrible idea in the nineteenth century of *Christian charity*), since the mercy of the throne; the only *city of refuge* provided by our law for the British lover who offends his mistress, is accessible to few offenders.—The race to this sanctuary is too long—the sanctuary itself too high—and in nine cases out of ten, being closed against the offender, by its total ignorance of the *affair*, the accused is perhaps *turned off* and *turned out*, before the ephemeron transaction has been heard of—and if the Christian religion be true, it is to the records of justice in another world, or to an awful visitation of national calamity in this, that we must look for the destiny of all those who are contributing by their corruption or criminal inattention, to entail upon our country the cruel and demoralizing influence of such a system.

Considering that man has not the faculty of omniscience (as the affair of *Byrne* in the Bishop's case well evidences)—that the most upright judge

may be deceived; and the ends of justice defeated by the corruption of a single individual; it is surprising that men, knowing the errors to which they are exposed, by this inevitable imperfection of our nature, should make awful additions to the weight of their own responsibility, by enactments at variance with the justice and charity of the Gospel!—Is it then in the law or in the throne, that the subject should find mercy? or is the latter as present to save an injured citizen or a penitent offender, as the former is to destroy him?—we know it is not. The throne of man is not, like the throne of God, an all sufficient refuge to the penitent offender, nor an all sufficient protection of innocence from the malice of revenge (witness the case of Moore, the English chandler, who was incarcerated on the evidence of a private prostitute; who wished to force him into marriage.)—The grace which proceeds from the throne of God, reaches, *in the moment of necessity*, to the most hidden and remote corners of the universe. The grace which proceeds from the throne of man, travels slowly and often slumbers on its post; until vengeance has rendered its virtue useless, and covered it with painful anticipations!—The grace which proceeds from the throne of God, is not rendered nugatory, by the multiplicity of its objects, nor can it be diverted from its course by accident or design; but that which proceeds from the throne of man is difficult of access, is not every where present, and is mostly rendered abortive by accident or design.—It is therefore in

the LAW, and not in the throne, that mercy as well as justice should be concentrated, and the king should be released from a responsibility, which it is not in the power of any man to sustain, by rendering our criminal laws, in some degree, conformable to the designs of HIM who "came to seek and to save that which was lost."*

To take the information of those *ladies* is said to have been quite a popular thing in some parts of the County of Clare, and of course, an equally popular thing to send the offending men to jail, unless they marry! Now, if magistrates, in any part of Ireland, will take informations of this nature, what handsome tools our criminal laws are, in the hands of such *justices* as these!—Why, the legislature might as well confer upon the civil magistrate at once, the power of a Turkish sultan, and save him the trouble of going through the tedious ceremonies of examinations, a warrant, and a jail, by permitting him to order these offenders forthwith to be hanged or married, as

* In our more copious notes of the Munster circuit, we find an allusion to a custom which we heard was quite a matter of course, in the administration of justice to the peasantry in certain parts of the county of Clare—that of forcing marriages upon the poor men of this county, by what the *ladies*, on their solemn oath, are pleased to denominate A RAPE.—These ladies are said to keep company with their paramours—grant them every favour which they can possibly desire, and afterwards swear a rape against them, for the purpose of forcing them into a marriage—and about twenty of these marriages, a protestant clergyman assured us, were celebrated in the chapel of his parish, in one day!

the *ladies* may happen to direct.—Was a serious inquiry into these abuses once instituted, we could give reference to competent authorities on the spot, for confirmation of what we here affirm to have heard, as a fact of history; but, in the interim, we shall not name those authorities.—However, if parliament should institute an inquiry into Irish abuses, we have no doubt it would be in our power to direct its attention to individuals of respectability, whose integrity and local knowledge would cast a strong light upon the christian policy and christian administration of certain existing laws; and whether such an inquiry is now called for, by the state of Ireland, we submit to the consideration of that honourable house.

1.

And may heaven, if earth cannot do it—say I—
 Compel you to look at our country's sad state :
 May judgments or mercies descend from the sky,
 And the story of legal oppression repeat.

2.

May the God of all power descend in his cloud
 (Ere its thunderbolts fill you with dread and dismay)
 By heart-piercing convictions command you aloud,
 To embark in reform, the work of your day.

3.

Oh ! Britain's once glorious spirit draw near,
 The dread of the nations, the pride of the seas—
 In thy senate with form celestial appear,
 And frown upon places and pensions and ease.

4.

Thy sons then inflam'd by sweet charity's fire,
 The good of the whole shall prefer to a part ;
 Corruption shall wither—and virtue inspire
 The acts and the passions of every heart.

CHAPTER II.

Geographical position and climate of Ireland.—Soil, surface, civil divisions and boundaries of Downshire.—Tour through Downshire, by Dundalk, from Dublin.—Description of Dundalk and the seats around it—Author's letter to the Editor of a provincial newspaper.—Genius and disposition of the people.—Description of seats and manufactories in the neighbourhood of Dundalk—Of the beautiful valley of Ravensdale.—Carlingford.—Observations on the peasantry of Louth.—Parochial societies for the improvement of the poor, recommended.—Newry, the principal maritime town of Downshire, noticed.—Seats in its vicinity, described.—Loughbrickland, Tanderagee and Portadown.—Objects deserving of notice in their neighbourhood.—Banbridge, Dromore and Magheralin, with specimens of the country around them.—Travelling history of Hillsborough.—Views of its demesne and schools for education.—Village of Waringston. Description of Downpatrick, the metropolis of Downshire.—Ardglass, with reflections upon its new works.—Castlewellan, with the beautiful scenery around it.—Village of Newcastle.—Splendid seat of Tullamore-park.—Towns of Donaghadee, Portaferry and Strangford.—Seats.—Villages of Killough, Dundrum, Killileagh and Bangor.—Beautiful seats of Castle-Ward and Mount Stewart.—Anecdote of the late Lord Londonderry.—Seats in the vicinity of Newtownardes.—Parish of Annehill.

IRELAND, which constitutes the theatre of the following perambulations, is situated between 5° 25', and 10° 37' W. longitude from London, and between 51° 16', and 55° 15' N. latitude. It

is bounded on the north by the Scottish Sea, on the south by the mouth of St. George's Channel, on the east by St. George's Channel and the Irish Sea, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. Its greatest length, from north to south, is stated by different authorities, to be from 270 to 300 Irish miles, and hence we conclude, that 285 miles (the central number between these), may be relied on as a correct calculation. Its greatest breadth is reputed at 160 miles, but on this article also, some little variation occurs in the authorities to which we have alluded.

It rises out of the ocean on an immense bed of granite, and in various parts is pregnant with calcareous, ferruginous, and argillaceous matter, and hence bids fair, in process of time, to obtain an equal, if not superior rank, among the countries of Europe, in respect to its subterraneous treasures. The climate, though temperate, being humid and subject to excessive rains, is hence not quite so favourable to persons of delicate habit, as one more dry and southerly. Nevertheless, there are, perhaps, as many instances of longevity in this island, as in the same extent of country in other parts of Europe; and its peasantry are particularly healthy and robust. For the heavy rains to which we have adverted, and which sometimes threaten our harvests with destruction, some are of opinion, that we are principally indebted to the westerly winds, which meeting with no lands on this side America to break their force, necessarily waft hither the vapours of

an immense ocean, which separates us from that Continent; these falling on marshes and low grounds, and uniting in certain spots with stagnant waters, which have accumulated for ages, have, no doubt, impregnated the air with noxious exhalations, and been the source of disorders both to men and cattle; but the recent value of lands, and the growing spirit of improvement which pervades this country, will, by cultivation and draining, in due time, subvert the source of this public evil.

“The climate of a country,” as a respectable writer justly observes, “is often influenced by causes different from its mere position in point of latitude; thus for example, Quebec, which is situated in a more southern latitude by some degrees than the south of England, is devoted to months of frost and snow; whilst the latter is only occasionally visited by either.—The climates of countries are also often changed by adventitious circumstances.—The cutting down of woods and draining of marshes, by giving a proper circulation to the air, tend to their improvement, and render them more healthy abodes for mankind.—Formerly agues were the prevalent disorder of this climate; now they seldom are met with, except in those who have imported them from foreign countries.—Though an excess of humidity seems to be the fault of our atmosphere; and in the Down and Antrim districts of Ireland (with which this tour commences) is not lessened by tracts of retentive soil, by the mountains of those districts, nor yet

by the influence of great bodies of fresh and salt water, yet the climate is wholesome; owing probably, in a great measure, to the constant ventilation it is exposed to; for certainly the calm days of this part of Ireland bear a very small proportion to the number of days the year contains; the wet days bear a much greater; but it is not the quantity of rain which falls, that so stores this climate with moisture; it is the want of evaporation; for one tropical shower will afford more water than falls here in our most rainy season.—It is to this moisture however that we owe so much of our verdure; it is this which clothes our rocks, wherever they have a slight sprinkling of mould, with the most beautiful and softest turf.—If we have reason to complain of the moisture of our country, we have few other extremes to lament; we are seldom disturbed in summer with the effects of lightning, nor are we, in general, long confined in winter by frosts or snow.—In spring our prevailing winds have an easterly direction; these prepare the ground to receive the seed, and often continue until June, when milder ones prevail.—But weather, wet or dry, does not seem to be attached to any points, from which the winds blow; for it is observed, when the atmosphere has a tendency one way, all winds are alike, except the north, which seldom produces its proportion of rain.—The western winds are the most violent; yet very strong gales, and heavy falls of rain from December until February frequently come from the south-east

“Fogs are frequent but not permanent, except on the mountains and in their vicinity; even there they are not of long continuance, often coming on and retiring in the course of the day.—But between the mountains and the plains there is a great difference in the time of ripening the fruits of the earth, six weeks or two months sometimes intervening between the times of harvest; for, it is not uncommon to see grain reaped in the latter, whilst in the former it is quite green.—This difference arises from the degree of elevation the mountains possess, which through all the globe makes such diversity of temperature, in places otherwise not far distant from each other.”.

Much having been written on the climate of Ireland, we feel it unnecessary to enlarge on this subject, and therefore shall commence our simple history of travels with an appeal to the candor and liberality of the reader, who, if an Irishman, will not require laboured arguments to induce him to cover with a mantle of generosity, the efforts of a countryman, to improve and to amuse him.

*Geographical position and circumstances of
Downshire.*

Downshire is bounded on the east and south by St. George's channel—on the west by the county of Armagh and a small part of Louth, from which it is separated by the river of Newry—on the north by the lough or bay of Belfast, the county of Antrim, and a part of Lough Neagh which it scarcely touches.—Its greatest length, from Point

Cranfield in the south, to Graypoint, its most northerly extremity, is nearly 40 Irish miles; but from Lisburn bridge in the west, to Dundrum in the east, it is not more than sixteen.—The 54th degree of north latitude passes close to Point Cranfield, and the 6th degree of west longitude a little to the west of Hillsborough—It contains, by estimation, 344,658 Irish or 558,289 English acres.

Civil divisions.

Downshire is divided into the following baronies.

Ardes (in which are the towns of Donaghadee, Portaferry, Bangor and Newtown) comprehends about 30,000 acres.

Castlereagh (in which are the villages of Hollywood, Cumber and Saintfield) measures about 62,560 acres.

Dufferin, in which is the village of Killileagh, about 9,280. Upper Iveagh, comprehending the towns of Lough Brickland, Rathfryland, Castletown, Rosstrevor and Banbridge, &c. 66,049 acres.

Lower Iveagh, which includes Hillsboro, Dro-more, Moira, Magheralin, Waringstown and Gifford, 56,800 acres.

Kinalarty, containing the towns of Ballyneinch, Clough and Seaford, 26,180 acres.

Lecale, which includes Strangford, Killough, Ardglass, Dundrum and Downpatrick (the metropolis of Downshire) 32,100 acres.

Mourne, comprehending the village of Kilkale, 30,000 acres. And the Lordship of Newry, including the capital town of Newry, 9,500 acres.

The sum of these makes 322,469 Irish acres, which taken from 344,658, the superficial measurement of the county, leaves 22,189 acres, for the different bays, lakes, &c.

It is generally supposed that the county of Down was reduced into shire ground, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and at the same period divided into baronies.—It is probable also that the different proportions which each barony pays towards every £100 to be levied off the county at large, were settled at the same time.—The proportions are as follow; and when compared with the number of acres as stated above, may give some idea of the comparative cultivation, at the time of making this regulation :

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Ardes - - - - | 14 | 17 | 1 |
| Castlereagh - - - | 16 | 5 | 0 |
| Dufferin and Kinalarty - | 11 | 17 | 11 |
| Upper Iveagh - - - | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Lower Iveagh - - - | 18 | 3 | 9 |
| Lecale - - - - | 14 | 15 | 0 |
| Newry with Mourne - | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| | <u>£100</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

It is worthy of remark, that according to this assessment, Lecale pays within thirty shillings of the sum paid by Castlereagh, although the former has not much more than half the contents of the

latter, and in proportion, as much unprofitable land; whilst a considerable part of Castlereagh is, in quality, equal to the best parts of the county.—This difference must have arisen from the more easy settlement and consequent cultivation of Lecale.—Its situation, difficult of access, when once possessed by the English, must have given a degree of security to the persons and properties of the inhabitants, which they seem to have enjoyed sooner than the rest of the county, it having been finally settled about the middle of the 16th century; but long before that time, in the beginning of the 12th century, a number of English gentlemen, under Sir John de Courcy, were planted there.—Another circumstance must have contributed to give this barony a superiority over the rest of the county at a very early period; great part of it was portioned out in the different monastic establishments, which were certainly attended with this benefit, a more improved cultivation, not only from the superior knowledge of the ecclesiastics, but from their mode of life, which was in general exempted from the interruptions to which other proprietors were subject; and those who lived under them, were better protected by the prevailing religious tenets of those times.—That the ecclesiastics possessed more knowledge at that time than the rest of mankind, is by no means extraordinary, considering the nature of their profession, the low and barbarous condition of society, and not only that security of person and property, but that enjoyment of liberty and

power, which a blind veneration of the priesthood, and an infamous system of despotic law, made almost exclusively their own.

Ecclesiastical divisions.

The ecclesiastical division of Downshire is into the two bishoprics of Dromore and Down; the first occupies the western part of the county, and contains twenty one parishes—the second, to the east, contains forty-two.

Soil.

In a county of such extent as Downshire, a considerable variety of soil must be expected; and in reality, it contains every gradation, from sandy loam to strong clay; but the predominant soil is a loam, not of very great depth indeed, but good in quality, and in most places intermixed with a considerable quantity of stones of every size, which is not to be wondered at, as, from the general rockiness of the ground, quarries are to be met with near, or at no great distance from the surface in every part.—This loamy soil is of different depths and qualities, and incumbent on different substrata, which must assist its powers of production.—When clay is the substratum, the loam, partaking of its nature, is much stronger, more retentive of water, more difficult to improve and manure, but, when brought into cultivation, its produce is more considerable, and superior in its kind.—As the subsoil approaches to an hungry gravel, or what is termed *till*, which seems to be

an earth, impregnated with ochreous particles, the loam loses much of its fertility, and, unless it is constantly manured, and its nature changed by the mixture of some corrective, it is a most ungrateful soil to the farmer.—Clay does not occupy a space in this county of any great extent; it is mostly confined to the eastern coast of Ards, to the parishes of Donaghadee and Bangor, and to the north part of the barony of Castlereagh, which lies in the latter parish.—These lands are of a strong and good quality, requiring a high degree of manure, but repaying with interest the expense and trouble of improving them.—The grain produced in this district is excellent; and in the parish of Bangor, it is said will continue so for a length of time, without a change of seed.—Of sand the quantity is very small, consisting of a few stripes scattered along the different shores, of which the most considerable is that on the Bay of Dundrum.—Part of this is cultivated, part under rabbits and grazing ground, and part of it consists of sand banks, which lie upon the Bay, and, continually shifting, preclude all attempts towards improvement.—There is also a small tract of sand lying to the south of the river Lagan, which continues with some interruption, from the neighbourhood of Moira towards Lisburn, and thence to that part of the parish of Lambeg, which is in the county of Down.—Gravelly soils, soils intermixed with water worn stones, and whose substrata are of the same nature, are scattered in many parts, but do not, in general, lie in any

considerable contiguous tracts.—Moory grounds are mostly confined to the skirts of the mountains ; and bogs, although they are frequent, are not now, as soil, objects of improvement in this district, being, in various places, insufficient to form a supply of fuel to the numerous inhabitants in their vicinity ; and nothing which these bogs could produce by cultivation, would for a moment be put in competition with the value of their fuel ; for, in most districts of Ireland, such is the aversion of the female peasantry to the use of coal, that turf would be preferred, even if the other was equally cheap and equally accessible.—To these soils may be added the rich and deep loams on the sides of the different rivers, and which, not only in the county of which we are now treating, but in every part of Ireland, are justly considered by the inhabitants as a most valuable portion of their lands, constituting cool pastures, and supplying them with ample crops of winter soil, without the labour of manuring.—These lands are distinguished by different names in different parts of the island—in some of the central parts they are called callows, and in some of the southern, corcass lands ; but by whatever name distinguished, they are appendages of incalculable value to every good upland farm.—There is a small tract of loam, incumbent on limestone gravel, peculiar to the neighbourhood of Moira and Magheralin, which, by many, is supposed to be the most productive soil in Downshire ; an opinion justified, not only by the general fertility of that class of soil in other

districts, but by the size of the timber, which, with the exception of Waringstown, is of larger growth about Moira than in any other part of Downshire.

In describing the soils of this country, it is by no means necessary to our purpose to mark where one begins and the other ends, nor yet to enter minutely into a comparison of their products.—To point out those methods of cultivation, by which the land would be rendered of most profit to the farmer, would be a work of more utility; but this has been done by so many statistical and agricultural writers, and so liberally acted upon by the principal gentlemen of the country, as to afford a conviction, that the agricultural interests of Ireland are progressively advancing, and hence while we proceed in the prosecution of our broader principle—a display of the leading features of Ireland, political, natural and moral, to the view of the British public, we are not retarded in our journey, by a painful conviction that our countrymen are *perishing* for lack of agricultural knowledge (however slow the lower classes are to improve by it).—The sorrows of our country, alas! are of a deeper character, and flow from causes much more difficult of cure.—They flow from hostile principles and interests—from political abuses—from the neglect of a priesthood, in whose hand are the principles and prejudices of the peasant—from an almost total abandonment of the country by the owners of the soil—from the want of a peasantry improvement society, to correct *rural* abuses,—and from a train of causes, the

bare mention of which, with the facts that establish them, would require a separate work, under the title of "a Book of Grievances;"—these grievances, however, from the intelligence, independence, and unremitting industry of Ulster, are but slightly known there, in comparison of the other provinces.

Surface.

If inequality of surface be essential to the beauty of a country, few can boast a stronger claim to it than that of Downshire.—It contains every description of superficies; the plain, the detached hills, the ranges of hills, and the mountains—all of which contribute to form a variety, most interesting to the beholder.—The plains are mostly confined to the banks of the rivers, the hills occupy the largest portion, and the lofty mountains are thrown together in the southern quarter, whence they afford a striking feature, and form objects of incalculable magnificence, in almost every landscape, which this charming country furnishes.—This inequality of surface is useful as well as ornamental; it facilitates the running off of the waters, and enables those occupiers, who live on the sides of rivers, to erect their dwellings out of the reach of floods, which, with the exception of the overflowing of the Bann, are not frequent, or injurious; whilst other countries severely suffer under their annual ravages.

Having now given the reader, from unquestionable authority, the geography, civil divisions, and superficial aspect of this county, we shall conduct

him, for the enjoyment of an excursion, so far back into Leinster, as the town of Dundalk and the country around it, and which, as a highly improved portion of Leinster, and as the grand pass from Downshire to the Irish metropolis, shall, we flatter ourselves, afford him pleasure.—After he has enjoyed with us, the beauty and hospitality of Downshire, it will, then, be time enough to introduce him to the more useful and serious subject of its natural history.

Tour through Downshire and parts of Leinster.

On entering Downshire by Dundalk, we found the country presenting an aspect of civilization and comfort, totally different from those parts of Louth and Meath, which we had previously traversed.—With the exception of Collon, Slane, and a few other places which have been blessed by manufactures, or by the cultivating hand of wealth and rank, there is no manner of similitude between the character and circumstances of the population of these counties, and that of Down. That commercial intercourse and general circulation of money, which the linen trade produces, in connection with the liberality of the protestant religion, place Ulster, in the history of Irish civilization; at least three centuries before Connaught; a province where manufactures are only in their infancy, and where the gentry, we are sorry to observe, do not discover any very deep solicitude for an amelioration of the condition of the poor,

or for their advancement in arts and letters.— This improved aspect of Ulster (in your approach from Dublin to that province, by the great coast road,) happening to commence with Dundalk, we shall open our entrance into Ulster, with a brief description of this town and the country around it.

Dundalk.

Dundalk, a sea port, corporate and market town, stands on the great coast road, which opens a communication between Dublin and those parts of the north of Ireland, which claim a high degree of superiority, in point of civilization and improvement, as the counties of Antrim, Down, and Armagh, and the towns of Newry and Belfast.—It stands on a position exactly central to the city of Dublin and the last mentioned town; of course it is 40 Irish miles north of Dublin, and an equal distance south of Belfast. It exhibits nothing particularly striking to the traveller who approaches it from the south; and though situated on the shore of the capacious bay of Dundalk, a careless observer might travel through it without discovering that it had a harbour at all: but this dull uninteresting aspect of the southern approach, will be made amends for, if the traveller takes the trouble to ascend an eminence denominated Castletownmount, (from its proximity to the splendid castle of Mr. Eastwood, from whence this mount and the village of Castletown in the valley, on the west side of the town, derive their name).

Here, a new scene opens before the traveller,

in perspective.—The buildings of the town, which form a magnificent group on the margin of the bay.—The lofty spire of the church.—The plantations of the neighbouring demesnes.—The tall oaks and limes that wave their heads in awful grandeur above the plains.—The bay at full tide, exhibiting as it were a crystal plain, that widening by degrees, at length embraces the blue horizon.—And lastly, the chain of brown impending mountains, which terminate the view; altogether form a group of objects, so striking and so grand, as to throw into confusion and almost rout from the field, the brilliant powers of the poet and the painter.—The traveller, lost in admiration, stands riveted to the spot; and for some moments, at least, feels but little inclination to renew the toils of his journey.—Descending from this fine position to the town, he will find his attention attracted by the marks of its antiquity—of this, there are some striking vestiges in the town and suburbs, which fully prove, that once it was the residence of many a gallant knight, and the scene of many a bold enterprize.—An ancient castle in the town, distinguished by the name of Seatown Castle, whose battlements have braved the rugged blast of many ages, and mocked the levelling hand of time, still remains entire, and by its magic lessons of antiquity, nourishes *that love of country*, for which the Irish and Scottish people stand so eminently distinguished in the history of nations.

The town of Dundalk has two principal streets, which are decently paved and flagged, for the ac-

commodation of carriages and foot-passengers.—The main street extends a mile on the northern road, and exhibits a striking appearance of respectability and trade—the other, extends in a transverse direction to the harbour and shore, and opens a communication between the main street and the barracks, custom-house and quay.—There are also some lanes of inferior magnitude, which enlarge the dimensions and contribute to increase the poverty and population of the town.

In the article of public buildings, the church and new court house, have been deservedly acknowledged as models of architectural beauty.—Whether we consider the first of these buildings, in relation to its venerable aspect, the interior and exterior beauties of the place, the loftiness of its spire, or the sacred use to which it is dedicated; on all these accounts, it claims the high consideration of the friend of Irish improvement.—The first and second of these advantages, are, certainly, confined to the person who enters the building, and, under the shade of those lofty lime trees which ornament the sacred enclosure, has happily discovered among the solemn beauties of the place, the peaceful genius of devotion. From the contemplation of this figure, with her serene eye fixed upon heaven, and reposing on a mount, between the sterile soil of insensibility and the contending elements of passion, the spectator cannot depart unmoved.—The third of these special features of the church, confers upon the town, but still more eminently, upon the neighbouring landscape, a

ray of architectural beauty, at once grand and striking; and for the effects produced by the use to which this building is dedicated, if an additional comment be necessary, we shall leave it to be executed by those inhabitants, who have derived from the charitable doctrines of that temple, some prospects of a better world, or some improvement to their circumstances in this. It is but justice to acknowledge, that, for the beautiful appendages of this structure, the town is indebted to the present incumbent, the Rev. Elias Thackery, whose attention to the interests of the poor, and whose virtues, as a christian philosopher and divine, have raised him high in the estimation of his country.

The new court house (now nearly finished) is an extremely handsome and perfect structure; it is composed entirely of hewn stone, and the portico, which is formed on the model of the temple of Theseus at Athens, is uncommonly beautiful and striking.

The county jail, another public building of this place, is inconveniently small; but the painful consequences of this defect, to those confined there, appear to be, in some sort mitigated, by the cleanliness and regularity of the prison.—The vast number of persons, however, who, in the circumstances of this county, have been unavoidably stowed in some of the cells of that prison, and the inadequacy of the court yard, to afford them a sufficient measure of air and exercise, clearly evidence the necessity of a new prison, which it is

said, the county is now preparing to erect.—This, when completed, will not only add a new feature of beauty to the town, but will be contemplated by the eye of humanity, as corresponding with that character of mercy, which has placed christianity in the fore-ground of all religions, and from whence has been derived that generosity of the Briton, of which, when his practice becomes conformed to its dictates, he does not make his boast in vain.

The county hospital, under the management of a respectable committee, is also in this town, and its affairs are said to be conducted with justice and regularity.—Here a considerable number of patients are supplied with medicines gratis, and an experienced surgeon attends to inspect their complaints and suggest proper remedies.

The roman catholic chapel in this town, considering the number and respectability of that body, neither in its aspect nor situation, will answer the expectation of a stranger, who had made himself acquainted with the rapid improvement which has recently taken place in the public buildings of that church.—The chapels at Tullamore, at Kells, in the little village of Duleck near Drogheda, and in several other places which might be noticed, present the stranger with as fine specimens of plain, and modern Gothic architecture, as he could wish to contemplate. The chapel of Dundalk, though an edifice of plain aspect, and in a situation too much retired from public view, is however, tolerably capacious; but the defects

of architectural beauty and public position, of which we complain, are in some measure compensated, by the richness of its altar and sacred utensils.

Among the public buildings of this town, it may be proper to notice, a small presbyterian meeting-house, the neatness and convenience of which, do great credit to those members of the Scot's church who reside here.—Their present pastor, the Rev. Dr. Neilson,* is a man much respected for his learning and ability; and we beg to observe that having once visited that house during the period of public worship, its rational and solemn service afforded us much pleasure.

There is also a methodist chapel in this place; but of such plain and homely aspect, and so much precluded from public view, as to make no visible addition to the bulk or beauty of the town.

The seminaries for education in this town, are well worthy the traveller's attention.—They comprise three classical academies, and an English one.—One of the classical, is upon a public foundation, and is conducted by the Rev. Mr. Stubbs, a clergyman of the establishment—the remainder are on private foundations.

The free-school, erected about four years since, on the foundation of Erasmus Smith, and conducted on the Lancasterian system, is a very extensive building.—It is capable of containing at

* Since translated to the new college of Belfast, and soon afterwards to his place in the land unknown.

least four hundred scholars: children of every denomination are admitted.—Occasions of controversy are, we presume, excluded; and the school being under the weekly inspection of a committee of clergymen and other gentlemen, the progress of the scholar is ensured, and consequently his future good conduct, in some sort, guaranteed to society.

There is also a charter-school here, capable of accommodating sixty female children, who are clothed, educated, and apprenticed.—The present edifice is very old; but there is another building in progress, which, when complete, will add one to the many other objects, which improve the appearance of this place.

In addition to these schools, there are several minor establishments, which evidence a considerable attention, in the inhabitants of this town, to the education of their children.

The manufactories of this town are still tolerably numerous (notwithstanding its trade, in common with every other part of the British empire, has suffered serious declension).—Among these are an eminent distillery, the property of Messrs. Malcom, Brown, and Co. a firm deservedly respected for the punctuality of its payments, and for its liberality to the charitable institutions of this place; and an extensive brewery, the property of Messrs. Duffy and M'Alister, now, according to our information, the only one working in Dundalk.

There are, in the immediate neighbourhood of

Dundalk, two considerable flour-mills, the property of Mr. Callan, and one very eminent establishment of this kind, a few miles from the town; the property of Mr. Kieran; and, in the town, besides soap and candle manufactories, there are four large tan-yards and four respectable establishments in the tobacco spinning department. There is also a trade carried on here in linen yarn, and cloth manufactured from it, of a coarse texture.—These, and the various articles of country produce, as meal, potatoes, vegetables, poultry, butter, eggs, and the like, form the ordinary articles of the Dundalk market; but as a great mart for corn, (which may be considered as the leading feature of its home-trade,) it stands pre-eminent among the markets of this district.

There is an eminent and long-established inn in this town, of which, as to safe beds and sheets, and the quality of its hay and oats (objects of paramount consideration to the traveller) we are enabled, from experience, to speak with approbation. The town has also several houses of entertainment of inferior rank, so that in this respect, strangers of all classes can be suitably accommodated.

There is a building of decent aspect, in the market-square of this town, denominated the market-house; but, during the erection of the new court-house, that is, for the last seven years, it has been applied to purposes so entirely foreign to its appellation, and mercantile business so long excluded from it, as to render this appellation by

no means descriptive of its present uses.—The lower part of this edifice was, in 1817, meritoriously devoted to the duties of a soup-kitchen for the poor; a charity common at this time; and although (on its usually limited foundation) inapplicable to the necessities of the poor sick cottager, had its sphere of service in that year of eminent distress; and would have been still more useful to the poor of Ireland, had a larger quantity of bread, potatoes, or other solid aliments, been added to the nutritious fluid of the soup-kitchen.—This building has also been occupied as a court-house and common-council hall; and perhaps, in that liberality of public feeling, which does honour to our age and country, it has been sometimes devoted to public lectures, and to the amusements of the ball-room. It is probable, however, when the new court-house shall have been completed, that the *market-house* (without detriment to its hospitality) will be permitted to assume its proper functions.

The grand pillar, upon which depended the structure of commercial prosperity in this place, was not, however, any one of the branches of trade which have been yet noticed.—This pillar was its exports, at that time (1817) in a state of deplorable depression.—The town being well situated for this important branch of commerce, no expense had been spared to furnish it with suitable facilities.—New quays, extensive stores, and a neat custom-house, are hence among the objects which develope its commercial character;

but, that its commerce had experienced a sad reverse, will appear more fully from a comparison of its exports for the year 1812, ending January 1813, with those of 1816, ending January 1817.—In the former year, the exports of Dundalk, including corn, beef, pork, bacon, butter, and live-stock, are said to have amounted to £345,638. 17s. 6d.; in the latter, to £70,241. 4s. only, leaving a balance in favour of the first year's exports of £275,397. 13s. 6d.; a dreadful specimen, indeed, of the effects of our sudden transition from war to peace, and of the calamitous effects of one eminently deficient harvest.—It is consoling, however, to believe, that the British empire, and Ireland, as an important part of its dominion, possess resources and enterprize, which, in due time, will raise them above that state of depression into which a concurrence of unfortunate circumstances had then sunk them. May the energies of parliament be vigorously directed to this point; and may the people, in whose hands the constitution has placed the nomination of its members, look well to the characters of the men whom they shall make the guardians of their liberties; for, on the faithful discharge of this duty, and on the sacrifice of every interest which may interfere with its performance, depends the preservation of those rights which we enjoy, and in conjunction with the wisdom of the people, the attainment of those civil blessings which constitute the prosperity of a nation.

We have now laid before the reader, such an outline of Dundalk, as a temporary survey of the

place, and occasional communication with a few of its intelligent inhabitants, have enabled us to draw. For commercial information, and shall we add, other obliging civilities, we acknowledge ourselves chiefly indebted to Mr. Parker, the pro-collector of this port; and for literary patronage, to the following respectable inhabitants of this district:—Sir Edward Bellew, Bart.; Sir Thomas Forster, Bart.; Hon. John Jocelyn; Colonels Fortescue and Filgate; John M'Clintock, Esq. of Drumcar; John Woolsey, Esq. of Castlebellingham; Francis Tipping, Esq. of Bellurgan Park; Philip Pendleton, Esq. of Moortown; Neale M'Neale, Esq. of Faughert; John M'Neill, Esq. of Mount Pleasant; Thomas Lloyd, Robert Thomson, and John Richardson, Esqrs. of Ravensdale; Hugh Moore, Esq. of Nootka Lodge; Mr. Eastwood, jun. of Castletown; Rev. Mr. Maguire, of Ardee; Rev. Mr. Horner, of Dundalk; Rev. Mr. Stubbs; Mr. Kieran; Mr. M'Alister; and other principal merchants of this town; and to many other gentlemen, whose names as the patrons of literature, or whose improvements, as the friends of Ireland, it is our duty to notice, for the sake of public example.

Previous to our departure from this place, we thought it might be of some service to the country, to publish a few remarks upon the condition of the poor in this district, (in the spring of 1817;) a season of distress that will be long remembered by the poor of Ireland who have survived it. In consequence of this persuasion, we addressed the

following letter to the Editor of the Newry Telegraph, which that gentleman had the politeness to publish soon after :

To the Editor, &c.

SIR—As the mitigation of the miseries of the poor is not the least valuable of those subjects which find a place in the columns of your useful paper—permit me to lay before you a few observations relative to the state of the poor in this and the neighbouring districts, and to suggest a few more, as to the most probable modes of affording them relief.

The tedious process of my own researches, which I intend to publish, and the promptitude with which the patriotic papers of this country are known to enter into the interests of the poor (which in this, and some of the more northern counties, require immediate attention), will, I hope, be accepted as a satisfactory apology for the trouble which I now give you.—As to the state of the poor in this and the adjoining counties, it would not be easy to convey to you an adequate impression of the appearances of general distress.—The cottages, in a considerable proportion, present you with a view of men out of employment, and of women and children, from whose naked or famished appearance, humanity revolts!—Nor is this portrait confined to any single portion of the country through which I have recently travelled; it is a correct delineation of the condition of the poor, in several parts of the

counties of Meath and Louth (although the inhabitants of those wretched cabins which are to be found in the suburbs of several towns, present you with the strongest features of their country's misery), a spectacle which extends itself, if my information be correct, to the more northern counties of our country, with equal marks of depression and distress.—I do not mean to charge the gentry, and still less the little farmers, resident in those counties, with having fostered a disposition of cruelty towards the poor—on the contrary, many of the former, as individuals, are extremely charitable; and from the doors of the latter, the wandering poor are never repulsed, if they have any thing to give them. But the sickly and famished mother of children, who cannot fly from home, who must embrace misery and death in the midst of her hovel, with her children around her, I speak it boldly and from knowledge, is often unnoticed and unknown; and in the towns and cantons of this country must undoubtedly so continue, until death relieve her from her load of suffering, unless persons whose hearts are impregnated with the seeds of humanity, soon present a bulwark to the tide of misery, which now overflows this country; and this, in the judgment of many humane and intelligent persons, can never be effectually done, but by parochial societies, which shall not only make collections, and have sermons preached for this purpose, but which shall select from their body the most humane and reflecting persons to visit the poor in their cot-

tagas, and to ascertain, by actual inspection, the necessities of each, that so the charities of the public may be justly and accurately applied.

In proof of the utility of such societies, it may be a necessary, though painful duty, to call upon the inhabitants of any town, where no such patriotic society has yet been formed, to step out and see how the poor of their own neighbourhoods are circumstanced.—Let the opulent inhabitants of Kingscourt, Ardee, and many other towns which we might name, stoop from the splendor of those seats which they have rendered worthy of their country, and take a peep into those abodes of wretchedness, which (within a pistol-shot of the finest combinations of art and nature) present the senses of the stranger with an aggregate of all which the imagination could devise, to complete a picture of horror—a picture, which might, indeed, be exceeded by Milton's genius of destruction, or Blair's horrors of the grave; but which, in the *ipso facto* scenes of human life, can only be excelled by the prospect of a dungeon, in which the putrid carcasses of the inhabitants combine with clanking chains, and the fetid effluvia of a vault, to give us, alas! a lively representation of the future condition of those sons of prosperity, who instead of manifesting their gratitude to heaven for the bounty which has distinguished them, by their charity to that nature of which they partake, sedulously avoid those objects which bring to their recollection, that there is such a thing as misery in the world; and that the millions which

every year are basely squandered at the card-table, would, in the hands of a wise and judicious charity, effectually relieve it.

To persons so base and unprincipled, as to sacrifice to a passion unbottomed in nature, the dearest interests of their country, it is, of course, unnecessary to address ourselves, on any subject which has country for its object.—The majority of the opulent are not, however, thus deeply degraded, and therefore it is that we shall proceed to address them on the subject of our country—our poor distressed country; and finally, to suggest to the Irish government, with that respect which becomes us as subjects of the king, such means of relieving the poor in the immediate neighbourhood of Dundalk, as we have heard noticed by one or two of its inhabitants, as combining with an extensive employment of the poor, some important advantages to the police and commerce of Louth, of which this town may be considered as the capital.

Before we proceed to this latter part of our subject (which, so far as regards the formation of a harbour at Giles' quay, we presume to introduce upon the authority of others), it may not be improper to mention, that shortly after our arrival at Dundalk, having heard that the necessities of the poor, in several parts of the counties of Monaghan and Armagh, obliged them to repair to the bolting-mills of this county, for the purpose of procuring small quantities of bran to bleed with potatoes, for the support of life, we rode one

morning to the flour-mill of Mr. Callan, a respectable trader in this town, and there had an opportunity of placing ourselves in perfect possession of the facts of this statement.—We found thirty or forty poor persons, who had travelled a considerable distance to procure this poor material, which they proposed to blend with potatoes, or with a little meal, if they could procure it (as the best mode of spinning out the little stock of provisions which they had left), until the ensuing harvest should arrive, to rescue them from impending famine.—To these specimens of the general distress, it must be acknowledged, that the charity exercised by the respectable inhabitants of Dundalk, towards the poor of that place, has in some degree rendered this town an exception. Here, no less than 300 poor persons, on an average, receive daily, from a cookery maintained by subscription, one wholesome and nutritious meal. But has this rule been generally adopted?—Has any such institution taken place in the towns of Kingscourt and Ardee, already noticed?—In the back lanes of this latter town, we heard that famine had made such rapid progress, that the poor were dying of a noxious disease, and that it was not safe to visit them.—So far for the charity of those places.—But, perhaps the necessary *medical* provisions for a starving people, together with their preparation for a better world, had so much occupied the thoughts of their good superiors, as to cause the insignificant accommodations of food and raiment to be forgotten!—Should

this have been the case, Mr. Editor, your correspondents in those towns will inform you, and you will do the benefactors of the poor justice.

We shall now proceed to point out those modes of extending relief, to the inhabitants of Dundalk and its neighbourhood, which come properly under the control of the government of the country.—We have heard it said, that a considerable quantity of oats intended for seed, was shipped by government, last spring, for the towns of Belfast, Newry, and some other ports on this coast; and that the price laid on this oats (32s. per barrel) rendering it inaccessible to farmers of the lower class, a large proportion of it, very fortunately remains undisposed of—800 barrels of this oats are said to be now lying in the port of Dundalk, in good order, which if ground into meal, and disposed of to the *poor only*, at prices somewhat lower than the standard prices of the market, would have the happiest effect; as by this mean, the quantity of food in the market would be increased, and a check placed upon the growing prices of the *meal factor*.*

In aid of this grand object, *a mitigation of the miseries of the poor*, another, and still more pow-

* In one of the ports of Ulster, we heard that a considerable quantity of this meal was thrown out in a damaged state.—This indeed was not a very fortunate event in a year of famine.—It would have been better to have sold it to the poor at any price, than to have thus permitted it to rot, and be lost both to the poor and to the government.—We mention this as a matter of report, but do not pledge ourselves to its authenticity.

erful assistant, than that of a reduction in the prices of provisions, presents itself—namely—that of furnishing them with proper employment—and here a new field of inquiry opens itself before us.—The county of Louth, has we understand, had it in contemplation to build a new bridge over the river of Dundalk, on the great northern road to Belfast, and a new jail in the town of Dundalk.—The necessity of this latter public work, will soon appear to any person who will take the trouble of entering one of those cells, on the ground floor of the present prison, in which 12 or 14 unfortunate victims of the law, were unavoidably huddled together, when we visited that prison, a few days previous to their trial in the spring of 1817.—It is true, this prison, though totally inadequate to the necessities of the county (and presenting, when fully inhabited, a sad spectacle to the eye of humanity) is kept as clean as possible; and as well aired; as the plan of an old prison completely overstocked with prisoners will admit of, yet its inadequacy to the present purposes of the law, the premature inflictions of punishment, which confinement in that prison must impose upon accused persons, and the present circumstances of distress, which loudly call for employment, and which offer the labourer's exertions at a very reduced price, are surely motives of sufficient weight to induce the county to set about this work forthwith.

In addition to these useful sources of employment to the labouring poor, it has also been suggested, that material advantages would be derived

to the trade navigating the Irish sea, if a pier was erected at a place called Giles's quay, on the north east side of the bay of Dundalk, for the protection of shipping embayed in that bay, or driven by strong easterly or south east winds on this portion of the coast.—In these circumstances, a vessel being unable to clear Cooly point for the bay of Carlingford, would derive considerable advantage from a harbour in this place.—The capability of this situation for a commodious harbour, is obvious at the first view, and would be carried into effect at a comparatively trivial expense; while the cost to the government would be amply compensated, by the prevention of the contraband trade carried on in that portion of the coast; for it is a notorious fact, that more tobacco has been smuggled in that neighbourhood, than in any other district of the coast, except the mountains of Mourne; and it may be added, that the vast number of vessels, which are reported to have been lost in this place, furnish no mean argument in proof of the necessity of this undertaking.

I have now endeavoured, Mr. Editor, to point out the sources which this neighbourhood naturally presents, of combining with the employment of the poor, some obvious improvement to the trade and police of this county; and the prospect of some advantage resulting to the government itself, from its patronage of those public works.

Whether these observations may or may not be attended to by the government, or by the opulent

branches of the community, it is impossible for a mere traveller to determine—but in the circumstances in which providence has placed me, I feel that I have discharged an imperative duty, by placing them before the public for discussion.

Wishing success, Mr. Editor, to your efforts, and to the efforts of every man for the public good, I remain, &c. &c.

Dundalk, May 31st, 1817.

P. S. I once more beg leave to suggest to the inhabitants of Dundalk, and to every town where a similar charity has been established, that, however valuable a daily cookery may be rendered to the healthful poor, its benefits are not likely to be extended to the sick cottager, unless parochial societies, formed for this and other purposes of charity, shall appoint proper visitors to inspect and report upon the condition of the sick and infirm poor, in their respective districts.

Soil and internal commerce.

The lands around Dundalk are said to be of good quality, and well calculated for the growth of wheat and other species of grain.—The several articles of agricultural produce, are chiefly disposed of in the Dundalk market, which, for the sale of corn, has been long eminent; and in former years a considerable proportion of the money which the landholder received for the produce of his farm, was expended in this town, in purchasing the necessary articles and comforts that his farm would not supply; the money thus returned to its

former channel, and the consequence was wealth and prosperity.—At present however it is otherwise.—The produce of the farmer's industry must now go to pay those exorbitant war rents and accumulating imposts, which in a land of liberty and plenty, accomplish all the purposes of an oppressive and grinding despotism; leaving the farmer nothing for his labour, and the country merchant, who shines by the reflection of his wealth, in a state of bankruptcy and despair.—The consequences of this revolution, (facilitated by an expenditure of the natural revenue of the country in Italy and France, and for which our modern gentry have acquired an inextinguishable rage) may be easily conceived by the political economist.—The revenue of the crown, it is said, maintains its ground; perhaps this may be the case, or perhaps not; but if the affirmative be the fact, we must only say that, the prosperity of the public treasury is no longer a criterion by which we can measure the prosperity of the country, since the bankrupt calendar, the mendicity associations, the intolerable overflow of our prisons and law courts, and that general distress, which prevades all classes of the people, proclaim to our rulers, in characters that cannot be misunderstood, the distresses of the nation, and the progress of that calamity which is now the lot of Europe, and from which few are exempted, save those who derive their wealth from an interest in the public taxes!

Rank and fashion.

Dundalk may be considered as the centre of the rank and fashion of that district of the Irish coast, which extends from Castlebellingham and Dunleer, to Jonesborough and Ravensdale, in the neighbourhood of Newry.—The northern rangers, a celebrated hunting club, assemble in this place; and some of the gentry of the surrounding country, exhibit, in their manners and appearance, a degree of taste and elegance, that would not disgrace a court.

We are bound also by our own experience to acknowledge, that individuals, in the decent ranks of society, preserve that attention to hospitality and letters, for which this country was once eminently remarkable, and which still (notwithstanding its misfortunes) constitutes a feature of its character in the history of Nations.

Genius and disposition of the people.

The population, as you advance northward of Dundalk, combine with a pleasing simplicity, a proper degree of the activity and intelligence of Ulster.—They are in general peaceably disposed, and although some enormities had been committed in Louth, a little previous to our passage through that county (in the spring of 1817) yet a shadow of criminality did not attach to the inhabitants of Dundalk, nor to the country towards Ulster; beyond it.—The insurrection act, was in operation at this time, in a part of Louth, and the country

felt much interest in the trial of a young clergyman at Dundalk, who after an attentive examination of his case, and that many testimonies had been borne to his loyalty, by the protestant gentry of the country, was honourably acquitted.

Seats.

In the vicinity of Dundalk there are many seats of respectability, and some farm-houses that combine with them to give the stranger an impression of the progress of civilization in this place; and although these, with the town of Dundalk, which forms a centre to them, should be arranged in an estimate of the character and resources of the county of Louth in Leinster; yet because of their assuming an aspect materially different from other parts of this county, and because that part of Louth, which lies north of Dundalk, partakes so much of the character of the county of Down in Ulster, with which it approximates, and in whose manufacturing interests it has a partial concern, we have deemed it expedient to usher in our view of Downshire, with a brief description of this place, through which we passed in our journey to that county; and expect the reader will not suffer any deficiency of information from this arrangement of a tour, that does not pretend to the geographical precision of a county survey, while it is ambitious to place before him such a portrait of the country, as shall enable him to form a tolerably accurate opinion of the character and circumstances of its various districts.—Agreeable

to this plan, which stands in a medium between the fugitive details of an ordinary tour, and that close investigation of the resources of a country, which ought to characterize a statistical survey (and without which the statesman can adopt no measures on its report) we shall draw such information from the works of others as may supply our own deficiency of personal observation, and give consistency to our plan.—In this design we feel pleasure in acknowledging the ample helps that we have received in our review of Downshire, from Mr. Dubourdieu's survey of that rich and populous county, which is now the subject of our consideration.—We have looked with solicitude into several of the county surveys of this island; and although we met with some that lent us a few useful hints; and with others that contained very useful agricultural reports; yet, among those that have so far fallen under our observation, we have not found any so exactly suited to our plan, as those which have been executed by the Rev. John Dubourdieu, on the counties of Down and Antrim, where long residence, close attention to their history, and a general co-operation in the object of his mission, enabled him to complete a survey of those highly distinguished counties, that combines, with a developement of their resources (but not with a description of the beautiful seats of those districts, for which the writer was peculiarly well circumstanced), the greatest variety of topics in an easy and graceful dress, that we have yet had the opportunity of enjoying in

the perusal of a work, professedly on the statistics of a country.—It is however but justice to this department of literature to observe, that our acquaintance with it is but partial, and that those on Ireland which have come under our observation (Mason and Dubourdieu's excepted) have not been among the number that are deemed most happy.—From the authors just noticed, we are not ashamed to acknowledge that we have derived much information; but in our history of this country, chiefly from Dubourdieu, who has scarcely left any thing to be said by the mere statician who may succeed him.—Our plan however (although it cannot boast of the deep research of a county survey) being more extensive, and perhaps better calculated for general information than some modern tours, we trust the portrait of Ireland which it here presents to the English public, enriched with the colours of the best artists, will not be found an imperfect likeness of the country, nor totally barren of information to the statesman, who wishes to govern it by a liberal policy; and to eradicate from the law and the constitution those ancient and modern abuses, by which the course of justice has been impeded, and the seeds of discontent and disloyalty sown in the minds of the people, to the prejudice of the crown and the moral interests of the nation. Having now made a candid acknowledgement of our debt, and noticed the more valuable objects of this work, let us return to the obvious aspect of the country.

Of those seats in the neighbourhood of Dun-

dalk, which contribute their proportion of influence to the beauty of the country (and combine with the public roads, generally in good repair) to mark the progress of civilization in that district, we beg leave to notice a few that we had an opportunity of viewing with attention, in our rural excursions through that pleasing and improved district of Louth, which furnishes the traveller from Dublin to the north (by the great coast road) with a most pleasing and respectable introduction to the wealth and improvements of Ulster.—The families of Earl Roden and Viscount Clermont, which possess by far the most splendid and beautiful seats in the neighbourhood of Dundalk, not being *at home* in our passage through that country, we are compelled, for the sake of *accuracy*, to reserve for a more favourable opportunity, a description of those elegant appendages to the beauty of the Dundalk district.

Fair-hill.

Fair-hill, the seat of the Hon. John Jocelyn, comprehends a dwelling house in the English villa style, and about 100 acres of demesne, in high heart, and interspersed with plantations.—This seat is contemplated from several positions in the vicinity of Dundalk, as a feature of beauty in the surrounding landscape; and the prospect from hence to Sleibhgullien and the Carlingford mountains, over the town and spire of Dundalk (which are rendered more picturesque, by the trees with which those

objects are blended in the valley) is extremely interesting.

This seat stands near the public road which opens a communication between Dundalk and Ardee, within an English mile of Dundalk, which is the post town to it, and 41 Irish miles north of Dublin.

Fort-hill.

Fort-hill, the seat of the Rev. Gervis Finlay, comprehends a large new built edifice, and 25 acres of a demesne not yet dressed or planted.

It is situated on a county road which opens a communication between Dundalk and Fork-hill and Market-hill (two post towns in the county of Armagh) 41 miles north of Dublin, and about two English miles from Dundalk, which is the post town to it.

Castle-town.

Castle-town, the seat of Charles Eastwood, Esq. comprehends a fine ancient castle in good repair, a neat modern lodge, which has been attached to it by Mr. Eastwood, and about 100 acres of demesne, interspersed with plantations.—Although there are much more splendid demesnes in the neighbourhood of Dundalk than this; as for instance, those of the Earl of Roden and Lord Clermont, yet the fine land and water view which the adjoining hill commands, the town and bay of Dundalk in full view, the antique castle peacefully reposing beneath Castle-town mount, from whence you take your prospect, and the fine plantations

of Lord Roden's demesne, which enrich the valley between it and the town of Dundalk, altogether combine to render this scene rich and picturesque, and deserving a note of distinction, in a detail of the beauties of the Dundalk landscape.

Castle-town stands on the day coach road from Dublin to Armagh, at the distance of one Irish mile from Dundalk, which is the post town to it, and 41 miles north of Dublin.

Philipstown glebe.

Philipstown glebe, the seat of the Rev. Sir Thomas Forster, Bart. presents to the traveller, who approaches it from Dundalk, an aspect of architectural and plantation beauty, apparently so capacious, as to fix the impression of a demesne of 60 or 80 acres ; whereas, the house, the garden, and all those other features that complete its portrait, stand on a little circus of 17 Irish acres ; while the influence of their combined beauties extends far beyond that narrow boundary assigned to it by the church ; as if the genius of the place, indignant at the attempt which had been made to restrain her operations within a despicable circle, determined to assert her celestial powers, by the diffusion of her glory upon the entire territory around her.

The merit of economizing and arranging the charms of this seat, so as to produce a striking effect upon the surrounding landscape (and particularly to the traveller's view who approaches it from Dundalk) belongs to the present incumbent, whose creation it is ; and we notice with approbation an

operation of taste, which, while it promotes the comfort of a gentleman, who has deserved so well of his successors, contributes its proportion of influence to the beauty of the neighbourhood, and presents it with a perpetual example of what taste and science are capable of producing on a small ground work.

The garden of Philipstown, whether we regard the neatness of its aspect, or the originality of its plan, exhibits striking evidences of the taste and genius of its founder.—Although the least public and conspicuous of the beauties of this place, it is not least calculated to fix the admiration of the stranger, who feels himself at a loss to reconcile with the narrow limits of this glebe, and the uncertain tenure by which the incumbent holds it, the pains which he has taken to enrich and beautify this object.—The platform which sustains the garden, is separated into beautiful compartments, by tall beech fences, each enclosing a rich and tasteful variety of fruits and flowers; but as it is not the object of this work to enter into the minutiae of garden history, we shall close this brief description, with a directory to the road and post town connected with this seat, observing in our usual mode, its distance from and geographical relation to the metropolis.

Philipstown glebe stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Dundalk and Castleblaney, at the distance of three miles from Dundalk, which is its post town, and 42 miles north of Dublin.

Philipstown flour and corn mills.

The property of Mr. Kieran (an eminent merchant of Dundalk) have been erected within the last few years, on a little river called the Philipstown river; a stream that would scarcely be sufficient to keep this great establishment working, but that it happens to supply a considerable fall in this place, and that the machinery of the flour mill has been erected on the most perfect scale of modern improvement.—It has seven pairs of stones; the wheel is 24 feet in diameter, and the width in the bucket 10 feet.—This establishment (as the manager informed us) did business to the amount of 39,000 barrels of wheat (in one season,) a few years since, and is capable of doing more.—As there are other mills in this neighbourhood, some notion of the business transacted in this department, in the neighbourhood of Dundalk, may be formed from the above example.

Bellurgan park.

Bellurgan park, the seat of Francis Tipping, Esq. (a gentleman who constantly resides on his own estate) is situated on the northern shore of the bay of Dundalk, and forms a very fine feature of artificial beauty, in the magnificent mountain and sea scenery, which this portion of the coast exhibits.—The dwelling house stands on a lawn beautifully planted, under the lofty shade of the Carlingford mountains; the whole of which objects, combining with the sea and the numerous pretty villas of this district of the coast, give you a fore-

taste of those grand prospects, upon which you are entering in your farther progress to Rostrevor. The demesne of Bellurgan contains about 300 acres; and at the rear of the house, a sanded walk conducts you through a fine chain of plantation to a pretty cottage gently elevated above the landscape, from whence the spectator enjoys a fine view of the sea, as also of the town of Dundalk and the surrounding country.

Bellurgan park is situated about four miles east of Dundalk, which is the post town to it, and 44 miles north of Dublin.

Mount pleasant.

Mount pleasant, the seat of John M'Neill, Esq. on an estate of Lord Viscount Clermont, comprises a pretty lodge in the villa style, and 40 acres of a richly planted demesne, to which the mountains of Carlingford, on its rear, form a magnificent and sublime outline.—Though this seat cannot boast of enjoying the same extensive prospect and appendages as some others in this neighbourhood, yet if shut out, by its modest position from the beauties of an extensive view, it has also the consolation of being precluded from the view of those bleak and unplanted tracts, which mingle with the finer features of the country; while the Carlingford mountains shed upon its limited lawns and plantations, as rich a shadow as upon any other villa of the same extent in its immediate neighbourhood.

Mount pleasant stands on the public road be-

tween Carlingford and Dundalk, at the distance of three Irish miles from the latter, which is its post town, and 43 miles north of Dublin.

Faughert.

Faughert, the seat of Neale M'Neale, Esq. comprehends a small but neat dwelling house, and 80 acres of demesne, which like the other demesnes in this neighbourhood, derives a striking influence of beauty from the lofty mountains of Carlingford.

It is situated on the mail coach road between Dublin and Belfast, 41 miles north of Dublin, and one mile north of Dundalk, which is the post town to it.

Ravensdale.

From Faughert we proceeded to Ravensdale, a valley which constitutes no mean feature of beauty on the estate of Viscount Clermont, although the bald and unplanted aspect of the mountains that enclose it, forms a shocking contrast to the natural beauty of the valley, and to that high perfection of taste with which it has been decorated by Baron Mc Clelland; Robert Thomson, Thomas Lloyd, and Robert Murphy, Esqrs., who have chosen this interesting valley for their residence, and Messrs. Lloyd and Thomson for a theatre of trade. To these latter gentlemen the valley is indebted for that health, plenty and vivacity, which are inseparable from an extensive diffusion of the linen trade; while, in a picturesque point of view, their bleach greens glistening in the sun, vying with the whiteness of the snow, and blending with the

evergreen foliage of the surrounding seats, complete the beauty of this valley.—The most eminent, and we believe the most highly elevated and extensively planted of these seats, is that of Baron Mc Clelland, to whose finger of improvement Ravensdale is also said to be indebted for its best agriculture; and we must confess, considering the natural beauty and various artificial improvements of this valley, it much surprised us that the lord of the soil should have neglected to enrich the scene, and his own coffers at the same time, by raising a colony of oak on the summit of those mountains, which appeared to us to be inapplicable to any other production, and to serve no other purpose, in their present state, than that of a very disgusting foil to the beauties of the valley.—The bleaching trade carried on here, both in the linen and yarn departments, is considerable; the latter is chiefly for the Drogheda market, where a species of narrow dowlas, eminently strong and well coloured, is manufactured to a considerable extent. The linens bleached here are of various qualities, and we presume are mostly purchased, at the markets of Newry, Armagh, Monaghan and Ballibay, and sold, when finished, in the markets of Dublin and London.—These goods (so far as we had an opportunity of inspecting them in their finished state) spoke well of the waters of Ravensdale, and of the science with which the business of bleaching is conducted in that valley; and to the more prominent features of utility and beauty that mark this place, may be added, the aspect of

the cottages, which sparkle like snow drops on the plain, and convey to the eye of benevolence, a scene of rural felicity ; and to the heart, a sensation of joy, which mere solitary grandeur is incapable of inspiring. This picturesque valley, embosomed in the mountains of Caraban and Aughnavarana, which enclose it on the east and north east, is situated three miles from Dundalk, 44 north of Dublin ; and Fleury bridge, a village in its immediate vicinity, is the post town to it.

Carlingford.

From Dundalk we drove to Carlingford, an ancient village that gives its name to the adjoining bay, which stands eminent in Irish history, for its admirable oysters.—This village derives a feature of distinction from the antiquity of its appearance, to which the splendid ruins of an abbey, and certain castles that once flourished there, largely contribute.—With these ancient ruins, the grotesque mountains that hang over the village and the sea, admirably combine, in imparting to this poor shattered object, an air of wild grandeur ; and had forests of lofty oak, from the sides and summits of those mountains, waved their haughty plumage over the town, and shed their mighty shadow upon the foaming surface of the sea beneath, we cannot conceive any thing, on a small scale, in that portion of the coast, that would have a finer effect in a water-view, than this town, as the mariner approaches it from a distant country.

After looking at this place for a few moments,

and inquiring for one or two gentlemen who were absent, we drove to the villa of Mr. Hugh Moore, a pretty little seat on the sea-shore, erected by this gentleman's taste and industry, on a spot, to which neither art nor nature had been very bountiful.

After a few moments spent at this hospitable villa (the conversation and manners of whose proprietor evidenced, that his extensive travels and intercourse with the world had rendered his character, as a gentleman, complete) we returned to Dundalk, contrasting with his manners and those of an amiable young officer in the same neighbourhood, the less noble and dignified conduct of a certain *well educated* gentleman, who having heard, in the progress of our tour, that an introductory letter awaited him, fled from the intelligence, as if, on opening the envelope, a plague would start out and seize upon the little heart, to whose magnanimous forebodings he was indebted for a timely escape from the field of danger. Having now touched upon the principal features of Dundalk, we shall beg leave, before we proceed farther northward, to offer a reflection or two upon the country that we have just left behind.

We have already observed that Dundalk and its immediate neighbourhood partake more of the character of Ulster than of Leinster, to which they geographically belong; and the curious traveller, who takes pains to ascertain the multifarious distinctions of our complex history; and for that purpose, travels slowly from Dublin to Ulster, by the great

coast road, will probably perceive some tincture of the Ulster character diffused along the coast, from Newry even to Drogheda, where the strong dowlas manufacture (extensively carried on here) produces a similarity of pursuits, and no doubt, a partial intercourse with the northern drapers.—Whether a contemplation of the province to which we were approaching; that decided advantage of property and character which Ulster possesses over all the other provinces (for in civilization it is at least three centuries before Connaught), and an early attachment to the linen-trade, might not have given to our minds sensations of a mixed character, not altogether resulting from the distinctions of the country, we shall not pretend to say; but separate from all those peculiarities of feeling, which have their origin in the habits of the mind, we presume the traveller of intelligence, who explores the County of Louth in pursuit of statistical information, will find (with the exception of Collon, which is a little manufacturing colony) a very material difference between that district of the county which extends along the coast from Drogheda towards Newry, and possesses more or less of a manufacturing spirit, and those districts of the interior, which may be regarded as exclusively agricultural.—These latter, as to the appearance, manners, and language of the peasantry approximate, in our view, to the character of the labouring peasantry of Meath, and those agricultural districts of Cavan, which unite with Louth in the opposite direction; while

the population of the coast, that is, from Drogheda towards Newry, approximate more nearly, in our judgment, to the character of Ulster.— This difference in the manners and circumstances of the Louth population, has, probably, its origin in those geographical distinctions of the county, which gave birth to its commercial and agricultural relations.

The coast furnishing facilities for trade, which the interior did not, towns were accordingly erected, and ports opened for the reception of shipping. To the metropolis of the island, situated on the same coast, an open and extensive communication, through those towns, was necessary, from the north of Ireland, where the linen-trade (whose remote origin cannot be traced in history) was early established. These circumstances combining to communicate to the coast of Louth, the benefits of the linen-manufacture and of general commerce, the population naturally arose in the scale of information and prosperity, above the peasantry of the interior, who were necessarily confined to the labours of the field, and who continuing in that state could neither acquire themselves, nor impart to their posterity, any improvement in their condition; and from this source, in all probability, proceeded the difference which we conceive to be so striking between the coast and the interior country; a difference (as to its influence upon the comforts of the people) which can only be melted down, by the gentlemen of Ireland forming parochial societies,

for the destruction of poverty and vice (that is, in the first instance, to raise the wages of the labourer) and offering such premiums for character and cleanliness, in connection with a personal application to the improvement of the people, as may give an adequate impulse to the spirit of civilization; a duty which would be by no means difficult to perform, as, in every neighbourhood, there are worthy farmers and tradesmen that would prove faithful auxiliaries of such a valuable design; and while, in the department of cottage husbandry, the latter might advance, by their more familiar intercourse with the peasantry, the designs of the gentlemen of the parish, in relation to that object; so in the departments of education and household industry their wives and daughters might be rendered useful auxiliaries to the ladies, who would not find their parochial labours oppressive, either in a personal or pecuniary point of view, if the duties of the parochial improvement society were fairly distributed, and the premiums of sufficient magnitude to reward merit with impartiality, and to provoke competition, without being so generally diffused, as to render competition languid, or patronage burdensome to the guardians of the poor.

SYSTEM would render all these duties light, while that health of mind which a useful employment of time produces, would amply compensate for those trifling sacrifices of indolence or private pleasure, which a rational existence requires at our hand.—Difficult as are the circumstances of

this country, we are of opinion that much may not only be achieved, but actually accomplished, by parochial societies rightly organized.—In these the clergy should be leading members; but in catholic districts, the good intentions of the protestant gentry, in relation to the education of the poor, will be rendered abortive, should they make the introduction of the scriptures into schools a *sine qua non* of the benefits which they propose to confer upon the people.—To this arrangement, the priests, situated as they are at present, will not agree.—We do not say but an ample parliamentary provision might work liberally on their minds in this particular; but until this parliamentary experiment has been tried, forcing the scriptures into catholic schools may, and no doubt will, drive the children of that class from our embrace; but certainly will not cause them to embrace our bibles, so long as they are taught to regard the doctrines they contain with the same suspicion and abhorrence, as they would regard a poison, which they had been told by their clergy was blended with wholesome food, for the express purpose of betraying them.

The difference of pursuits and of comforts, which distinguish the Louth coasters from the men of the interior, appear also to have produced a material difference of mien and figure, in the population of these districts of the county.—The men of the coast have, in our view, a more independent aspect and a more upright carriage, than the men of the interior (who, as we have already

noticed, approach more nearly to the peasantry of Meath and parts of Cavan.)—Their women also are, in our view, much more graceful and attractive.—Those labours of the field, to which the peasantry of the interior are devoted from early life, must have produced this striking dissimilitude, unless we may suppose the interior of the country to have been peopled by a different race or nation ; for, in parts of Louth and Cavan, not very distant from Dundalk, we observed a large proportion of the female peasantry to be destitute of one of the most beautiful and attractive features of the sex, a full chest, and to have flat breasts like men!—It was not one, two, nor perhaps twenty examples of this kind, that satisfied our curiosity, so far as that curiosity could be satisfied by a cool and philosophic observation of the fact ; but after repeatedly contemplating the form of those women, we found this singularity to be, in a very considerable proportion, if we can trust our senses, a standing feature in the female history of the country. The dialogues on this subject, which we sometimes held with the peasantry of Cavan, were curious and amusing ; and we particularly recollect the humour and affected modesty with which one old woman in that county favoured us with her strictures upon that branch of the natural philosophy of her neighbourhood :—“ Sir,” said she, “ our young women are not so flat in that quarter as you imagine, but they are too modest to allow their shapes to attract the notice of the men, and for this reason they very properly conceal their

bosoms in their handkerchiefs.”—“The propriety of this concealment, Madam, will hardly be disputed by those who are sensible of the power of their other charms, as no doubt the men of your country are; but with all due respect for your superior knowledge, my worthy woman, I will lay you a wager of one guinea, that more than half your women have flat bosoms like the men; and I will submit to have the controversy determined by the shape of your own daughter, who is working in yonder garden.” The old woman finding herself pressed upon that point, and unable to maintain her argument, retired from the field, and looking shrewdly in my face as she departed, told me, that she believed I was *an old rogue*, and that I had often examined the women of her country more narrowly than in the present conversation.

Newry.

From Dundalk we drove to Newry, a sea-port town situated on the same coast, about 10 miles north of the former, on a navigable river called the Newry water, over which there are two stone bridges, beside a bridge over a line of canal, that opens a communication between this port and the bay of Carlingford, on the one side, and the waters of Lough Neagh, upon the other.—This town, although irregular in its aspect, is large and populous; it sends one member to the imperial parliament, has a very eminent weekly market, for the sale of yard wide brown linens of good quality; and for the exportation of linens and

importation of British manufactures, it is the principal trading town in Downshire, although not the metropolis of that county.—A journal, styled “The Newry Telegraph,” is published here, twice or thrice in the week, and has a considerable circulation in the counties of Down, Armagh, Tyrone, Louth and Cavan.—It was then edited by James Stewart, Esq. a gentleman long known to the respectability of Ulster, as a writer of no mean talent, and latterly to the republic of letters, by his history of Armagh, in which he has included much of the ancient history of Ireland.

The trade of this place, we have reason to apprehend (although we cannot establish our opinion by positive examples, as in the history of Dundalk) has suffered serious depression within the last few years.

Whether this depression has been produced by a cessation of the late war in the Peninsula, which furnished a market for so many of our productions, by the absence of our gentry (in consequence of our union with England, and of the modern rage for French frippery and Italian paintings) or whether it proceeds from a system of taxation disproportioned to our resources, we shall not take upon us to determine; but that such exists, we presume will be found by any statesman or statician that will enter into its history.

Narrow Water.

Agreeable to our usual practice in the prosecution of this tour, we visited as many of the re-

spectable seats in the neighbourhood of Newry (during the few days that we made this town our head quarters) as was compatible with the attention which we owed to the other districts of the country.

Among these objects of rural improvement, Narrow Water, the seat and part of the estate of Roger Hall, Esq. maintains a respectable position.

It is situated on the eastern bank of the Newry river, and comprehends an extensive modern edifice, and between three and 400 acres of demesne ornamentally planted; but, from the bay of Carlingford, and the mountains of that name on the distant shore, this seat derives its principal influence of beauty.

There is an ancient castle on this property, which presents itself as a striking object on the margin of the water, as you drive from Newry to Warren Point, a most interesting and well frequented road (in the summer season) which passes through this property, and contributes largely to the life and animation of the neighbouring country.—This castle is said to have been built by the Duke of Ormond, in the 17th century, when the republic of England had yielded to the restoration of the monarchy, in the person of Charles II.

Soil and Scenery.

The soil in this neighbourhood is light, but tolerable for tillage and for the maintenance of light stock. The views, even thus far, along the Newry river, have considerable interest, but would have

much more, if the mountains on the distant shore had more generally acknowledged the dominion of the Hamadryades, who have been robbed of their territory here and elsewhere, by the English absentee system, or by the poppies, with which Morpheus has covered the eye-lids of our Irish Lords.

Narrow Water is situated about four miles south of Newry, and one mile north of Warren's Point, which is the post town to it.

Warren's Point.

This village is situated about a mile N. W. of Rosstrevor, on the N. E. margin of the bay of Carlingford, at the entrance to the Newry river. A salt manufactory has been erected near it, and two ferry-boats are maintained here for conducting passengers to the county of Louth, on the distant shore.

Greenwood Park.

This interesting cottage of Ross Thompson, Esq. is situated in the same neighbourhood, and, together with its cannon mounted tower, presents itself to view in your progress from Newry to Warren's Point.—It attracted our attention, on that road, as a neat and curious object in our passage through the country in the summer of 1817.

Clonallon House and Rosstrevor.

Clonallon House, the beautiful and extensive seat of the Rev. John Davis (possessed by him,

as chancellor of the diocese of Dromore) may be considered, not only as one of the most extensive glebes in this province, but also as one of the most striking objects of artificial improvement in the neighbourhood of Rosstrevor; a village on the shore of the bay of Carlingford, whose accommodations for sea-bathing, and whose picturesque scenery (to which its wood, water, architecture and mountain views admirably conspire) render it one of the most fashionable places of resort in this province, in the season of sea-bathing.

Clonallon House comprehends a light and rather spacious edifice, in the villa style, together with 200 acres of demesne lands (already noticed as church property) ornamentally planted. The prospect from this seat over a part of Carlingford Lough, to the picturesque village just noticed, and to a magnificent planted mountain beyond it, is incomparably fine; as indeed all the views are from the apartments of this house.

This seat is indebted for its modern plantations and other works of taste, to the improving finger of Mr. Davis, whose liberality to the poor of this neighbourhood, is said to reflect as much honour on his humanity, as the improvements we have just noticed, reflect credit on his taste.—Clonallon House stands midway between the villages of Warren's Point and Rosstrevor, on a county road, which opens a communication by the sea coast between Newry and Downpatrick.—Its distance from Newry is six Irish miles, from Dublin 56, and Warren's Point is the post town to it.

RURAL TRADE.

Bessbrook and Millvale.

In the country around Newry there are various bleach yards and manufactories, the measure of whose trade it would be satisfactory to ascertain, in order to a perfect history of the county; but as in our circumstances, this accuracy of information cannot be obtained, we shall content ourselves with observing, that among the objects of this class, that attracted our notice, the flax mills of Bessbrook, the property of Messrs. Nicholson (where an immense quantity of strong yarn is manufactured from the produce of the soil) and the extensive bleach yard and flour mill of George Atkinson, Esq. in the same neighbourhood, appeared to us, both in relation to their trade and to the public spirit of their proprietors, to furnish no mean examples of the industry and enterprise of the Newry district.

Bessbrook, the seat of Messrs. Thomas Nicholson and Co., and Millvale, that of George Atkinson, Esq. (an active magistrate) are situated near the public coach road between Armagh and Newry, about two and a half miles from the latter, which is the post town to them, and 52 miles north of Dublin.

Glen.

Glen, so denominated from the manor of that name on which it stands (and of which Mr. Innes, the resident in 1817, was both seneschal and Lord of the soil) is situated near the great mail coach

road between Newry and Belfast, of which road it is the only improvement of consideration between Newry and this seat.—The demesne, comprehending about 180 Irish acres, is distinguished by the bold contrast of hill and dale, ornamentally planted, and is a select proportion of eight town lands which compose this property.—How much better may we expect justice to be administered in a manor like this, where the common landlord and father of his people presides, than in those manors (and we fear they are too many) where men of low virtue and information, undertake to administer justice in those courts, for a small stipendiary allowance.—Concerning one of those courts in a midland county, we have heard it said :—“ If your cause be good, it will be damned there ; if unjust, its victory is certain.”

Glen is situated about 55 miles north of Dublin, and is distant about five miles from Newry, which is the post town to it.

Cohnacran House,

The seat of William Edmond Reilly, Esq. (a magistrate of Downshire) forms an interesting feature in the view, as you drive from the village of Poyntz-pass to Loughbrickland.—It comprehends a neat lodge and 50 acres of demesne, nearly west of Loughbrickland, which is its post town, and sufficiently elevated above the general level of the surrounding soil to become an object of attention to the traveller.

Loughbrickland glebe, Town, and Trade.

The glebe house, which in 1817, was the seat of the Rev. Edward John Evans, stands on a pretty elevation above the town, and commands a pleasing view of the Lough, from whence the town derives its name, signifying, in the Irish language, *the lake of the speckled trout*; a species of fish with which the Lough is pregnant.—In conjunction with Colnacran house, west of the town, and two or three bleach yards in the valley, which are its best ornaments, this glebe forms an interesting appendage to the town views, having 24 acres of glebe land, neatly dressed and planted.—The town is situated on the great leading road between Dublin and Belfast, about eight miles north of Newry.—It is composed chiefly of one broad street; is a fair and post town, but derives (without the aid of a weekly market) its chief respectability from the fine linen and lawn manufacture, which is carried on in high perfection, in the country around it.—A mere English traveller, unacquainted with the etymology of our townlands, would suppose that Loughbrickland derived its name from a combination of *Lough* and *brick*; but we could not perceive, from our slight observation of the soil, that its natural history would support this construction.—The town, like all others in this highly civilized district, is composed of stone houses, neatly dashed and slated; and the surrounding country sparkles with public monuments of trade; while the manners of the people

are such as to afford the traveller perfect security, and the heart of benevolence rational delight.

The bleach yards noticed in this description, are situated (on the estate of — Jones, Esq. in the county of Antrim) about two furlongs south-west of the town (or village).—They are in the half bleach trade, a process performed chiefly with lime, which is not injurious to the quality of linen, when judiciously applied.—Mr. Mollan, the proprietor of one of these greens, half bleaches, annually, about 7000 pieces.

Tanderagee.

Although this town is situated in the county of Armagh, as also that of Portadown, the next subject of our tour, yet, from their *proximity* to Down, and that social and commercial intercourse which subsists between them, we shall make so far free with the geographical distinctions of our country, as to borrow those towns from Armagh, as respectable attendants of our tour through Downshire, and as very natural appendages of its history. Tanderagee is situated on the river Cuser; and though a small town, it is rendered respectable in the history of this district, by its trade, and by the romantic beauty of its situation.

It stands on an estate of Lady Olivia Sparrow (as the trustee of her son, a minor) and the family seat, on the margin of the town (whose variegated lawns are distinguished by the titles of the upper and lower demesne) constitutes the principal feature of its scenery; and to the fine lineaments of

art on this demesne, the bold and eccentric geography of the soil on the banks of the river Cuck, has contributed in high perfection; while the subject of the Naiades, equally ambitious of the honour of the scene, rolls her wild and rapid flood, under a lofty wooded bank, through a beautiful glen or valley in the lower demesne, and joining her hoarse murmur to the silent eloquence of the surrounding scene, completes the pre-eminence of Tanderagee, in the *picturesque* history of this district.

That called the lower demesne, presents its swelling lawns and ornamental plantations to the view of the traveller, who approaches this village from Portadown, in all the *vanterie* of village pride and beauty.—The upper demesne (on which stands the family mansion, inhabited in 1817, by Mr. Creery, a worthy clergyman of the establishment) does not exhibit its beauties so fully to the traveller on the roads; but when entered upon, or viewed from the hill on which the house stands, is found to present, to the view of the spectator, wide and expansive lawns, distinguished by the bold contrast of hill and valley, by a valuable oak wood, several young plantations ornamentally arranged (by Mr. Loft, the agent of this property, without any other expense to the estate, as we have heard, than the sale of fallen and decayed trees) and by extensive walks, neatly sanded for the accommodation of the visitors of this sylvan scene, who, for the beauty and convenience of those walks, as well as for the embellishments we

have just noticed, are indebted, we believe, to the same intelligent and tasteful finger of improvement.

This village has a good weekly market, for the sale of yard wide linens; a benefit, for which it is indebted to Mr. William Macdonald, a venerable linen buyer, who was living at the period of our visit to this place, in the summer of 1817.—It has also a flax, yarn, and butter market; and in the year just noticed, a gentleman resident on the spot, assured us, that 80 purchasers of linen attend this market regularly, and at an average of 20 pieces of 25 yards purchased by each, expend in each weekly market of this village, about £8000 sterling, beside all the other articles disposed of in the course of trade.—The principal part of this money, it is true, is carried out of the town, but enough remains with the inhabitants to secure to them a competent provision.

Tanderagee is situated a few miles north of Loughbrickland, and 61 north of Dublin.—It is a post town, and the estate of which it is such a proud feature, comprehends, as we have heard, about 9000 acres of this tract of country.

Seats.

In the vicinity of Tanderagee, that is, on the county of Down side, there are many charming villas; but not many in the immediate neighbourhood of the town.—The Down side of Tanderagee, is by far the most wealthy and picturesque.—It is probable therefore that this village will sanction

the liberty we take of enrolling her name in these memoirs, as a member of the Downshire family ; while the latter, notwithstanding the comparative poverty of the village, will feel pleasure in introducing her to the best companies, as a little relative, whose inferior wealth is forgotten in the contemplation of her charms, which draw the most fashionable circles around her, *in the season of amusement.*

The Armagh side of Tanderagee, though, like all other *blood relations*, jealous of her claim ; and with whom the village, for her convenience, maintains a sort of *PRIVATE intercourse, in the absence of better company*, is not however that connection, of whose acquaintance, we should suppose she would be most ambitious.—Nevertheless, the Armagh district of Tanderagee, like every part of this respectable country, presents to the eye of the stranger, the gratifying evidences of a warm, industrious, and of course, respectable population.—On that side of the village we visited

Harrybrook,

The seat of Robert Harden, Esq. (a magistrate for the county of Armagh).—It comprehends a plain modern edifice, and about 100 acres of his own land ; being a small proportion of a valuable property, on which this gentleman resides.—This seat is situated on a county road which opens a communication between Armagh and Banbridge, at the distance of two miles from Tanderagee, which is its post town, and 60 miles north of Dublin.

Portadown.

Portadown, a good market and post town in the county of Armagh, and near the boundary of Downshire, is pleasingly situated on the river Bann, and in point of trade, it is, or was, eminent in the corn and brewing departments; but, from the failure of the company, conducting this latter trade; a very extensive brewery was lying idle, when we visited that town in the winter of 1817.

Quay.—A quay is said to be much wanting in this town, for the accommodation of the lighters engaged in the corn trade; in which improvement, not only the merchants of this place are interested, but also the farmers for many miles around it, and therefore it should be executed by their joint subscription, as it is not an object of sufficient magnitude to claim the notice of the legislature.—It is thought that the moderate sum of £300 would complete this quay.

A noble example of liberality.

While travelling in the neighbourhood of this village, an example of liberality, deserving a public record in the history of the country, having been communicated to us by a person who was an eye and ear witness of the facts, we think it our duty to introduce it in this place, as an object of public imitation, and as a piece of village history in which every one must be interested, who is not totally insensible to the distinctions of vice and virtue.

In the rebellion of 1798, when that infernal policy, by which mutual suspicion is fomented and ripened into madness, was opening the first volume of its works in Ireland.—When the catholics and protestants of Armagh, under the innocent and sportive epithet of "*wrecking*," made war upon each others property and habitations; a poor priest in the neighbourhood of Portadown, thrown into consternation by this unnatural warfare, came, in the midst of his alarm to this town, and cast himself upon the protection of Mr. Woolsey Atkinson (a respectable merchant) who with his excellent partner, now no more, received him immediately into their house, appropriated a room to his accommodation, and entertained him at their own table until the political madness of the day had subsided, and a restoration of the nation to its senses, rendered it safe for the poor priest to return to his peaceful habitation.—Reader, the person who exercised this seasonable hospitality (which deserves to be engraven on the walls of his town) to a priest of the Roman catholic religion, was a member of the church of Scotland, an officer of the constitutional corps of his country, and at the moment when he took this priest under his protection, was the member of certain religious and political societies, of which popery is known to be the sworn foe!

You madmen—you murderers and bigots, whether popish or protestant, that can be rendered the instruments of a foul design, and so far duped by others, as to swallow down those prejudices,

that prepare you for every act of aggression upon your fellow countrymen, behold this record, and blush for your brutality.—You, who are the disgrace of humanity, and whose detestable spirit, renders the name of your religion obnoxious to our thoughts, behold this action of an Orangeman to his political enemy, and make the philanthropy of his mind and that of his once valued consort, the standard of your practice—so shall our country be respected, and the feeling of its inhabitants cease to be regarded as an exhalation from that hell, the nature and properties of which have been placed before our eyes in living colours, by your acts of insanity and murder.

Portadown opens a communication from Lurgan in Armagh, and Gilford in Down, to the county of Tyrone, by Verner's bridge.—In the immediate neighbourhood of the town there are not many seats of magnitude; the most respectable we saw, was that of Carrick, the seat of Dean Blacker; but the country abounds with the habitations of substantial farmers and manufacturers, a class of society that contribute much more to its wealth and independence.

Carrick.

Carrick, the seat and part of the estate of the Rev. Dean Blacker, comprehends a plain but commodious dwelling house, originally built in 1692, and about 170 English acres of demesne, which, by a judicious system of draining and an adequate quantity of lime, have been rendered productive.

The aspect of that fine country, in the topography of which this seat forms a highly respectable feature, is not distinguished by any very lofty eminence; consequently the prospect from hence is neither very extensive nor richly diversified.—The demesne is distinguished by some fine old timber, and the prospect towards Portadown, by some young plantations (of Mr. Woolsey Atkinson, the gentleman just noticed, and a Mr. Robinson,) that season the town landscape with a pleasing spice of the picturesque.

In the direction of the town, and in that of the parish of Killmore (in which latter, the spire of a church built by Dean Brandara, is a fine architectural object in the scene) the country improves upon the eye; and the river Bann, sustaining vessels of 60 tons burthen, and deluging the neighbouring lands with the overflow of her waters, presents the glory of her wave, in the pride of commerce and landscape beauty; although we thought it questionable, from our reflections on the country, whether this prodigal *overflow* of her favours to the neighbouring lands was serviceable to the constitution of either party; but as this is a question more proper for the consideration of the inland navigation company, and the commercial and agricultural interests of the district, than for ours, to them we shall submit it.

Carrick, which is a feature of distinction, on that pleasing and populous road which opens a communication between Gilford and Portadown, stands 64 miles north of Dublin, 22 south west of

Belfast, and 1½ mile from Portadown, which is the post town to it.*

Drummenagh.

Drummenagh, the seat of Mr. Robert Woodhouse Atkinson, comprehends a farm lodge, in the *comfortable* fashion of this country, and a farm of 80 English acres of a strong clay soil, well adapted to the growth of potatoes, wheat and oats, but particularly the two former.—This, in a manufacturing district, is an extensive farm, and connected with its comfort, the trade of the proprietor, and that good order which it exhibits in unison with the whole aspect of the country, render it a tolerably good example of the advantages which the population of Ulster (particularly its southern and eastern counties) possess over the population of the other Provinces.

Drummenagh stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Portadown and Dungannon, by Verner's bridge, 67 miles north of Dublin, and two miles west of Portadown, which is the post town to it.

Bannbridge.

Bannbridge, a small but neat town (on an estate of the Marquis of Downshire) is next to be noticed

* We believe Carrick is now the seat of Lieutenant Colonel Blacker, of the Armagh militia, son of the late dean; a gentleman universally well spoken of; and whose survey of the parish of Seagoe, in the 2nd vol. of Mason's Parochial Survey of Ireland, is such as we should expect from the pen of a scholar and a gentleman.

in the order of our tour.—It is a market and post town, about two miles north of Loughbrickland, and has the honour (if this will afford the English traveller enjoyment) of deriving its name from a source, which he cannot misunderstand; namely, a bridge which has been erected there over the river Bann, which waters the town and neighbouring country, and in a landscape and commercial point of view, this river, which has its source in the mountains of Mourne, is one of the proudest features of the district.

The town of Bannbridge, which is situated on the great coast road between Dublin and Belfast, on many accounts has a claim to eminent distinction, in the history of Downshire.

One of the best markets in this province, for the sale of fine lawns and linens, is held here.—There is also a good butter market; and, between this town and the village of Gilford, a distance of only four miles, there are no less than six extensive bleach greens on the river, where goods are finished in the first stile of bleaching, a process for which the Bann water is eminent; and, unless by the river Lagan and some mountain waters north of Belfast, it is perhaps scarcely equalled in this province.

This town is provided with an excellent hotel, a dispensary, a reading room, and other useful public accommodations.

The scenery of this district of the river contributes also, in no small degree, to the celebrity of Bannbridge; where the traveller, from Leinster,

finds himself entering upon a cluster of as rich features of scenographic beauty and commercial wealth, as any rural scene in this rich and populous country, or perhaps any other district of Ulster (the pride of Ireland) can boast of.—This little tract of four miles, may be considered as one continued theatre of beauty, genius and commerce; as if Mercury and Ceres had combined with the Naiades and the Napææ, to crown it with their choicest gifts.—The river sustaining charming villas and beautiful bleach yards on its banks, rolls its serpentine *silver* flood* through a vale decorated with planted elevations; all combining to present the eye of benevolence and taste, with one of the finest and most gratifying pictures.

Bannview,

The seat of Mr. Robert M'Bride, comprehends a neat lodge, on a pleasing elevation within view of the town of Bannbridge, as you approach it from Loughbrickland; and had the lands attached to this lodge been tastefully planted, Bannview would be regarded as a pleasing little appendage to Bannbridge, whose best scenery however lies in the opposite direction, as we have just noticed in our brief description of the river scene.

* The *silver* of this river has been latterly converted into *bank notes*, for which the solid gold of the country has also been commuted. The drapers and land holders of the province know best, whether this description of exchange has promoted and secured their interests.

Dromore.

From Bannbridge we proceeded Northward to Dromore, an ancient town, said to have been founded in the 6th century of the christian æra. It is the see of a bishop, a post town, and a place of some trade, though certainly of no great beauty.—There are a few seats near it.—Mr. Leslie, the rector, behaved politely on this public occasion; but we had not the honour (nor did we deserve) to be patronized by a still more distinguished character, then resident in Dromore; for conscience will not permit us to subscribe to that system, by which our prelacy receive, what a methodist drudge would denominate an immense revenue, for a speech or a ceremony, that the honest itinerant would execute with neatness and dispatch in a few hours; and, at the utmost, for an annual income of £20 or £30.—We reverence our bishops, and wish it were in our power to transfer the respect that we feel for their person and office, to their enormous incomes.

Dromore stands on the great coast road already noticed, about 15 miles south west of Belfast and 66 north of Dublin.—It is watered by the river Lagan.

Seats.

Villa, the seat of John Vaughan, Esq. comprehends a good dwelling house, and 60 acres of a well planted demesne, 55 of which are held by this gentleman, as a fee farm on the Clanwilliam estate.—The soil being light, is best calculated

for the support of light stock, and for the growth of barley and oats.—The river Lagan passes through this demesne in its progress to Belfast, where it drops into the sea.

Villa stands on a county road which opens a communication between Lurgan and Dromore, at the distance of two miles from the latter, which is its post town, and 66 miles north of Dublin.

Skeogh house,

The seat of W. C. Heron, Esq. which is also held in fee from the Clanwilliam family, comprehends a farm of 24 Irish acres of a tolerably good native character, but capable of much improvement.—The walls of a new edifice have been erected on those lands, and when formed into a dwelling house with suitable plantations, and the soil adequately improved, this seat will add one to the other features of improvement, by which the neighbourhood of Dromore is distinguished.

Skeogh house (so called) stands on a county road which opens a communication between Bannbridge and Seaford (a village in this county) at the distance of three miles from Dromore, which is the post town to it.

Woodford and Milltown.

Woodford, the seat of James Black, Esq. (a magistrate of this county) constitutes an interesting feature of improvement, on one of Lord Downshire's estates; having an excellent new-built dwelling-house and bleach-mill, with all necessary machinery for the process of bleaching,

which was once carried on extensively in this place, and about sixty Irish acres of a farm in such heart, as to evidence, in connection with the improvements that have been noticed, no slight degree of confidence in the honour of the Downshire family.

There is a village on the same estate, in the immediate neighbourhood of Woodford, called Milltown, from two corn-mills and a beetling-mill, the property of Mr. Black. The neat aspect of this village and some surrounding plantations, together with the parish-church of Drumard, in its immediate vicinity, constitute Milltown an interesting and picturesque feature in the landscape of this place.

Woodford stands near a county road which opens a communication between Hillsborough and Castlewellan, 69 miles north of Dublin, and four miles from Dromore, which is the post-town to it.

Springfield.

The property of the Rev. Boughy William Dolling, comprehends an ancient dwelling-house, for a long time uninhabited, and 50 English acres of a light loamy soil, adapted to the growth of barley and oats, and every species of green crops. It stands on a county-road, which opens a communication between Lurgan in the county of Armagh, and Dromore in this county, 15 miles south-west of Belfast, 65 north of Dublin, and two miles and a half from Dromore, which is the post-town to it.

Magheralin-glebe.

Though this glebe is not in the vicinity of Dromore, yet, as being the residence of Mr. Dolling, and (in the County of Down, which is the subject of our present review) it shall be introduced in this place.—It stands in the vicinity of the village of Magheralin, on the western margin of this county, and is recommended to the notice of the historian of Down, more by the character of the incumbent, and his attention to the improvement of his parish, than by any thing in the appearance or history of the poor village from whence it derives its name.

Mr. Dolling has established a Lancasterian school here, for the education of youth; with this liberal addition to the usual rules of that system, that he permits the various religious denominations that assemble here, to be instructed in their own catechisms; and to the perfect freedom of conscience (or rather of *religious interest*) which reigns in this little seminary, it has the honour of standing on the site of the old see-house of Dromore, where the bishops of this diocese resided for several centuries.—Mr. Dolling has also established a choir in this school, for the service of the parish-church; a provision for the public service too often and shamefully neglected; and to these little items of the history of the parish, we may add, a spoutwell in the village, that is supposed, by the benediction of a tutelar saint, to possess healing powers; and as such, is said to be much frequented by the peasantry.

In this parish is situated Kircassock, the property of Mr. John Christy, a farm of the first rank in the agricultural history of the county; also the neat-lodge of Mr. Conway Blizzard, to which a farm of 50 Burleigh acres (a curious measurement between the English and Scotch standard) is attached. — This lodge stands on the road just noticed, as opening a communication between Dublin and Antrim, at the distance of three miles from Lurgan, which is the post-town to it, while to Magheralin glebe, Moira has been selected, by the incumbent, as its post-town.

Hillsborough.

Having discharged the debt of attention which we owed to the neighbourhood of Dromore, we next proceeded to Hillsborough, and waited on the Marquis of Downshire, on one of whose estates this town is situated; and after leaving for his lordship's inspection a former publication, we proceeded through Lisburn to Belfast, waited upon the Marquis of Donegall at Ormeau, as we did afterwards upon the late Marquis of Londonderry, at Mount Stewart, and the Earl Annesley, at Castle Wellan; and having been honoured with the patronage of these principal inhabitants of the province, we proceeded in the prosecution of our tour, in which Hillsborough, the subject of this memoir, is to be next described.

The town of Hillsborough is situated on the great mail-coach road (sometimes denominated the coast-road) over which we are now slowly

travelling, in our progress from Dublin to Belfast.—It is a fair and post-town, on the Hillsborough estate, which was once eminent for the linen and cotton manufactures, and is still distinguished for a description of coarse manufacture, called the Hillsborough hug.

The quarter-sessions of Downshire, for the town of Hillsborough, are held in this town; and the Marquis of Downshire, whose property it is, to his honour, almost constantly resides here.—His lordship's seat, and the parish-church of Hillsborough, are the principal ornaments of the town—and, as landscape objects would have been much more influential, if the church, with its lofty spire, had been more highly elevated above the general level of the country, and the mansion-house, with its fine Grecian portico and picturesque home view, had been removed a little farther from the town, and presented more fully and distinctly to the view of the traveller on the public roads.—In these respects the members of the *old* school were in the fashion of the *present* day, "*not at home*"—or perhaps they were travelling in France or Italy, for the benefit of the air!—At all events they did not always possess that heaven-born eye, that ascends above the low and grovelling positions of this world, to that lofty site towards which the spire points.—That, such, however, is the chaste and true design of a temple of devotion, must be obvious to every man, who is not dead to "reason and the *eternal* fitness of things."

The demesne of Hillsborough is extensive, comprehending a tract of nearly 800 Irish acres, embellished with artificial lakes, and with useful and ornamental plantations; nevertheless the appearance of this demesne, and of Lord Downshire's property in general, seems rather to evidence, on the part of his ancestors, their attention to the profitable results of a good estate, than to the fine and fanciful decorations of a picturesque landscape.—To this observation, the beauties of wood and water which characterize the home view, form an exception; but this, and one or two other views that shall be noticed hereafter excepted, this demesne does not exhibit to the spectator any considerable monuments of taste; nor do the lands possess that bold and beautiful variety of surface, upon which art can throw her lakes with advantage, into the valleys; her woods, with equal advantage, upon the distant hills; and blend her light and shade, with a consciousness that she is preparing habitations for the Naiades and Hamadryades, that these deities could not possibly despise.—A scene (since reason has run mad) so replete with beauty, that Venus and her nymphs should be compelled to walk there, and Apollo to erect a temple, that should rival that at Delphi; while its music softly echoing through the mountains, should produce that enchantment of the groves and rivers, which would be heightened into ecstasy by the presence of Venus and her nymphs.—Oh Venus!

The madness of our ecstasy in the view of this

imaginary scene being now over, let us (if indeed we have a lucid interval) return to the sober history of this property, a certain proportion of which (we believe during the minority of the present marquis) had been let out to poor freeholders, in small tracts, of perhaps from three to six acres. This arrangement, though useful, no doubt, to many of the poor, and calculated to increase the *well merited*, because *well exerted* political weight of the Downshire family, was not well received, as we have heard, by the old tenantry, nor calculated, in the circumstances of the times, to improve the Hillsborough property (the linen and cotton manufactures having materially declined about this period).

In a country where manufactures have never been established, or where, by mismanagement or misfortune, they have totally declined, we do not think the division of an estate into very small freeholds, the best mode of improving either a property or a country (but in a calculation of this nature, the character of a peasantry must be consulted by the statician, in order to a just conclusion). Our objection, however, to this mode of cutting up a property, is applicable only to those districts of Ireland, that are strictly *agricultural*, and which, consequently, have no other articles of commerce than the raw productions of the soil.— In these districts, *generally*, property will be injured, materially injured, by being portioned out in small parcels to the labouring poor, who, as the instruments of agriculture, should be pro-

perly provided for, by a system calculated to combine their comfort with the improvement of the property on which they live; but this coalition of interests, is not likely to be effected in the agricultural districts of Ireland, by a distribution of the soil into tracts of three or four acres; although little farmers of this class, *in their more general character of labourers*, may prove very useful appendages of a property that has been distributed, for the most part, in large tracts, among farmers of taste and capital.—This, at least, is our view of the subject, considered as a general principle and fact of history; although there are some exceptions, as in the barony of Forth in the county of Wexford, which is a purely agricultural district; and yet the whole or principal part of this barony is parcelled out among the inhabitants, in farms of from two to twenty acres, which are well maintained and well paid for; but this is an ancient colony from Wales, and in its habits and customs, forms a very striking exception to the general character of our Irish peasantry; and to this difference, which consists in the superior judgment, and superior industry and temperance of the tenantry, may be attributed that combination of the interests of landlord and tenant, by which this barony is characterized; but this furnishes no data for a general conclusion, and is rather considered as an anomaly in the agricultural history of Ireland.

Let us now examine the effects of a subdivision

of lands into small farms, in a MANUFACTURING district.

Connected with a valuable manufacture, and placed under the *surveillance* and liberal patronage of a peasantry improvement society (which we are bold to assert, ought to exist in every parish in Ireland) a colony of manufacturing farmers might, not only be rendered instrumental to the improvement of the soil and aspect of the country, but would, in fact, be the most respectable and useful population upon earth.

Instead of exhausting land, such a population would enrich it; an object, to which a certain proportion of the profits of their trade would necessarily be applied for their own accommodation; as, otherwise, the limited tract of land on which they depended for accommodation and support, would not prove sufficiently productive.—Nor would they be contented with a mere improvement of the soil, *if their trade prospered*, as prosperity is not only the parent of plenty, but of comfort and *elegance*, and by it alone, that appetite for refinement, to which we owe all our works of taste and fancy, is increased and rendered vigorous.—Unless therefore that human nature should alter its character, a prosperous manufacture will secure the validity of a tenantry, and the improvement of a soil and country.—A cottage, on a property thus circumstanced, will not *long* possess its homely originality of aspect.—The dusky colour of the mud wall, will soon give way to the snowy whiteness of the lime wash.—The yellow

weed, on a bald garden ditch, will soon be displaced by a white-thorn quickset.—The currant and the gooseberry tree will be planted, as a summer luxury—the orchard, as an article of trade—and, in fact, every nerve will be exerted to enrich the farm, from which a whole family is to derive its subsistence; nor, in these circumstances, will 40 shillings, or even three pounds, for an Irish acre of good land (a rent that would hurl destruction upon the head of a mere agriculturist) drive the manufacturer to despair.

Unfortunately for the place upon which we are now writing, the linen trade, once well established here, was almost turned out of possession, by a French gentleman called the Cotton trade (we choose so to distinguish the comparative frippery of this manufacture) who paid a visit to this country about 30 years before our passage through it in 1817.—We have a saying in Ireland, that, a *Highland laddy*, who quits his native hills in pursuit of fortune, never wishes to return back, until the green hills upon which he plants his foot, are as destitute of verdure as the pastures of his own country.—It was so with this French visitor—he came to trade with Hillsborough; but like the Scotch (who are certainly the cleverest men upon earth) he did not like to leave it, while a man, a guinea, or a loom in the country, could feed his manufacture.—We here speak facetiously, although the flimsy French manufacture, that displaced the linen trade in Hillsborough was no joke to the inhabitants.—They were not as badly

off, however, after the Frenchman's visit, as the Irish were after the long visit of the Danes, good men, who also came to *trade* with us; but happening, in the Scotch fashion, to like our country better than their own, they took a fancy to put us out by a quicker process than that of the Frenchman, who had too much good sense to spill the Hillsborough blood, while he possessed the address to turn it, together with the Hillsborough looms, into the channel of his manufacture.—In all this there was nothing to alarm the good men of Hillsborough, who for 20 years worked kindly in the yoke of their new ally, without at all suspecting that the solid foundation of their prosperity was undermining, or that their commercial blood, which was not drained away by violence, would be ultimately impoverished by this new trade.—For, the favours of the Frenchman, like the cordials of his country, exhilarated their spirits; and in such happy circumstances, it never enters into the head of a poor Irishman to *dream* that his constitution is subverting.—On coming however to his senses, when the *dream* of felicity is over, he feels his blood impoverished, his spirits exhausted, and his purse empty.—He curses his stars, leaves the blame of his misfortune upon any body but himself, and with a blanket on his back sets out to beg, with the consoling reflection, that it was his destiny, and could not be avoided!

The linen weavers of this neighbourhood, tempted, as we heard, by the higher wages they could earn on the muslin loom, and by the light-

ness of the labour, abandoned their old and faithful ally, the Linen manufacture.—In process of time, however, their friend the Frenchman made his best bow and departed.—The men of Hillsborough stared at each other, but it was too late: they learned, however, that *puff and powder*, however highly scented, will not stand the wear and tear of an old manufacture.

Their faithful friend and ally, the Linen trade, abandoned by the men who ought to have supported him, languished in the arms of his country,—the dupes of the French frippery, *tres belle, tres grand*, attempted to rally round the standard of their old general, when the Frenchman had given them the slip, but it was too late.—The linen manufacture had fainted—and, in 1817, when we took those notes, we saw the languid features of that form, which was once the health and glory of our country, spiritless, like the lees of wine that had been exhausted by the action of the elements.—The music of the loom had ceased in many habitations, provisions were scarce, and rents hard to be collected; for the stamina of the farmer failed, when the linen manufacture fainted; and we hence concluded, that in a manufacturing country, a manufacturing population are the best tenantry; and that, an estate will not suffer by being parcelled out amongst them in small farms, WHILE THE INTERESTS OF A WELL ESTABLISHED MANUFACTURE ARE MAINTAINED; but, from what we saw and heard at Hillsborough, we concluded also, that this rule of political economy had been forgotten, while *la-*

belle Mouseline had flamed there, and that the men of Hillsborough were not *at home*, when they exchanged their old Irish ally for a new French one.

As the existing proprietor of Hillsborough appears to enter with a becoming zeal into the interests of his country, and is one of the trustees of the linen manufacture, we have no doubt but he will adopt all practicable measures for the revival of this trade, in his own neighbourhood; as it is not only the main spring of the life and spirit of the people, but the main pillar of the landed interest of Ulster.

Indeed the attention which Lord Downshire pays to the agricultural interests of his neighbourhood, to the education of the poor, and we believe, to the advantages of a social intercourse with his tenantry and neighbours, do him much credit; and not less so, the firm though temperate support which he has so far given, in his place in parliament, to the constitutional rights of the subject. We respect Lord Downshire's character, on these several accounts, and think that character would be still more highly exalted in his own neighbourhood, by establishing a peasantry improvement society (for its benefit, and for an example to the country) than which there is not any human institution more conformed to the charity of the gospel; or which, if rightly conducted, would have a happier influence upon the character and comforts of the nation.

There are farming societies, education societies, bible societies, a stranger's friend society, a so-

society for discountenancing vice, societies for the visitation of sick and indigent room keepers in Ireland—but where is the peasantry improvement society; an institution which, if rightly organised, would embrace all the others; that is, it would embrace every thing connected with the interests of the *dependent* inhabitants of a parish; while the independent should support it, by a portion of their property and talents.—It is no small recommendation to such an institution, that the gentry, both male and female, would derive as much *moral* improvement from it as the poor—for it would make them know what many of them are now very ignorant of—namely, the original poverty of their nature, the accidents to which it is exposed; and the possibility of its degradation, or even destruction, in a moment—facts, which they may know in *theory*, but cannot *feel*, until they enter by system, into the interests of the dependent classes.—Those who thus enter upon their duties, do not find the knowledge of those duties reserved for the revelation of a sick and dying hour, when they press like a millstone upon the conscience, and when no reparation can be made to an injured population, for time and money squandered at the card table and other *intelligent* pursuits, save that of remorse and horror, which may or may not prove useful to the sufferers, but can be of no other service to society, than that of supplying it with an awful moral admonition!—The effect however of this knowledge becomes very different, when it is acquired by a faithful ap-

plication of our minds to the improvement of society, while life, health, fortune, influence or talents, are given for that purpose.—A faithful use of these, in due time, never yet failed to have a salutary influence upon the character and felicity of the agent; and however the hypocrite or fanatic may deceive himself with a notion of being saved by a faith or feeling, unproductive of good works; or, however the infidel may despise the prayers of a people for his salvation.—Give us the man—Give us the woman—who, when they go forth, are accompanied by the blessings of a grateful people; and, on whose behalf, when affliction visits, or the pale messenger appears, every knee bows, every eye streams with affliction, and every heart is uplifted to that God, “who heareth and answereth prayer!”—For, our belief is, that—on the tomb of that man or woman, whose philanthropy excited this solicitude (however severe the baptisms through which the spirit may have passed to the enjoyment of its rest) this inscription may be placed.

“Behold—the END of that man is peace!”

We have now given the reader our view (whether right or wrong) of the trade of Hillsborough, and shall proceed to sketch that which remains unfinished of the hasty portrait, which a transitory view of this town and neighbourhood, has enabled us to draw.—Concerning its advantages and defects, we have ventured to offer our opinion, but do not presume to stamp that opinion with infallibility, as this is a virtue to which travellers,

of all other men, have the least claim; particularly when, like some of our English tourists, they are writing the history of a country through which they are passing hastily; which they never saw before, and whose character they have to learn from a few bad inns, mail coach incidents, or the stories which are told them *en passant* for the purpose of amusing them.—We shall therefore make no pretension to infallibility while prosecuting our researches; but leaving this comfortable attribute in quiet possession of the pope, we shall proceed to sketch what remains unfinished of our portrait of Hillsborough; and in the execution of this and all similar performances, we hope, without pretending to infallibility, to earn the honest fame of having proved true to nature.

From a transient view of the Hillsborough demesne, we ventured to express our opinion, that nature has not provided it with those bold and striking varieties of surface, which constitute the ground work of landscape beauty.—Art, however, has made some efforts to supply this deficiency; and nature herself has been so far civil, as to supply the demesne of Hillsborough with the prospect of a few grand objects; with a brief description of which, and of the schools for education, we shall close this memoir.

From a pleasing elevation called the lime-kiln hill, the Hillsborough demesne presents you with the prospect of an extensive landscape, bounded by Sleibhghallien, in the county of Louth; the lofty Sleibhdonard, and other mountains of the

Mourne chain; and, in the opposite direction, by the mountains of Belfast, and part of a chain, in the counties of Derry and Tyrone.—In the contemplation of these latter mountains, the eye is attracted to the silver surface of Lough Neagh, which spreads its glassy wave with great beauty in the intervening valley; while the spires of Lisburn and Hillsborough, rising above the plantations of this demesne, conspire with the surface of Lough Neagh, to improve the aspect of the surrounding region.—In your descent from this elevated position, you pass over a sanded road through a lofty grove, and from hence you have the prospect of an artificial lake (on that border of the demesne which approaches to the town), embellished on the distant shore by a fine plantation; the rich foliage of which, appearing to surround the spire of the church, presents the eye with a combination of objects, which in the portrait of this demesne, may be considered as one of its most brilliant and picturesque features.—There is also a rich group of improvements on that part of the demesne which is immediately attached to the house; but as this, though comprizing the beauties of wood and water, with the Marchioness' elegant flower garden, is compressed into a comparatively small space, and has already been noticed as a home view, (or picturesque appendage to the house), any further description of its character is not necessary to that *mere outline* of the picturesque, which is alone compatible with the more useful objects of this work.

Nursery.

A nursery of young trees is maintained on this demesne, for the accommodation of the Hillsborough estate, (as our guide informed us, who is concerned in its management).

Schools.

There is a male and female school at Hillsborough, and a Sunday school where frequently, as we heard, 100 children assemble to receive instruction in morality, and in the elements of English literature.

Newport Lancasterian School.

Having twice visited the Newport Lancasterian School, and being requested by the master to give our opinion of this institution, in writing, we inserted the substance of the following remarks in the visitors' note book.

July 17, 1817.—We found about 60 children in the school room, whose conduct was orderly and becoming, their persons clean; and, with a few exceptions, their dress and countenances so indicative of health and competence, as, in a season of unparalleled distress, was well calculated to produce a strong and gratifying sensation.—We heard two classes (one male and one female) read a portion of the New Testament.—Their manner of reading evidenced a system of instruction somewhat superior to the generality of country schools.—We mentioned to the master our opinion

that, in order to render the pupils *perfect* in this useful art, each class, when reading, should be kept at some distance from the teacher, so as to render a deliberate manner of reading, due attention to punctuation and sense, and a proper elevation of the voice, necessary, in order to be understood; as, upon the accurate conveyance of an author's sense (which is rarely to be met with in the hedge schools or cottages of Ireland) much of the moral improvement to be produced to families, by vocal reading, is dependent.

As this, however, is a subject of general, and not local interest, we shall add such observations to the letter of this report, as may be necessary to illustrate the subject, and render it useful to the country—in travelling through which, it is amusing to witness (what every body must have witnessed, who is in the habit of visiting the cottages and hedge schools of Ireland) the volubility with which the younger peasantry will read the story of Redmond O'Hanlon, or any other robber, to their gaping family and neighbours; and that attention, with which the latter will listen for an hour together, with their eyes and mouths wide open, without, perhaps, distinctly comprehending three sentences in the narration, to which they have paid so much attention.—That quick sensibility, however, which is a characteristic of the nation (and which deserves a better fate) is sure to break out on these occasions, when an incident in the history, of unusual interest, happens by accident to reach the understanding.—The Irish ex-

clamations of *Oghoun* and *Arramusha*, bear ample testimony to the fact; while, in the countenances and expressions of the group, that untutored sensibility, which only wants proper cultivation to render it productive of the finest fruits, is exhibited to the discerning eye in all the richness of nature.

Since then, SENSIBILITY forms a prominent feature in the Irish character, and a thirst for information not less so; it is certainly of importance to the interests of society, that good books should be put into the hands of the peasantry, and that they should be taught to communicate their contents to each other with accuracy and force.—In both these respects the Lancasterian schools have made considerable improvement upon the old hedge school system; but, as it is to one only, *the mode of reading*, that our present observations are directed, we shall postpone the consideration of pernicious productions to a future occasion, and resume the discussion to which this visit gave birth.*

There is, perhaps, not any single art so nearly allied to oratory, as good reading; nor do we believe that there is a hedge school master in Ireland who understands it.—How then can he communicate that art to others?—The foundation

* We have a very excellent production on the education of the Irish peasantry, by an Irish Roman Catholic clergyman, now lying on our table; and which affords us the more pleasure, because we do not recollect to have seen any thing before, on the same subject, from the same quarter.

of good reading, is a perfect comprehension of the author's sense; and its end and object, is, the communication of that sense to those who hear us; but this cannot be done by a confusion of sounds, by false pronunciation, or by a delivery too low or too rapid.—A hedge schoolmaster, too generally, looks more to the *quantity* than the *quality* of his pupil's reading; and provided the foal he is driving gallops quickly over a rough road to the end of his journey, all is well.—The sound and judicious teacher, on the contrary, looks more to the quality of his pupils' reading, than to the quantity; and hence he will never permit the student to pass on to a second sentence, until he has delivered the first with precision; a task, which he may *accidentally* perform without understanding his subject; but the latter, we contend, is indispensable to perfection, and should be communicated to the reader's understanding by lecture; and who, for this very purpose, should never have a subject put into his hand that is above his capacity; or *much* above the measure of his knowledge.—The best mode of teaching this useful art, as we have already hinted, is to place the pupil, or the reading class, at a due distance from the teacher; by which they will be compelled to acquire a due elevation of the voice, and a deliberate and distinct delivery, in order to be understood.—These points once gained, attention to the proper pauses will be more easily commanded by the master; and that false or impure pronunciation, which sometimes shelters

itself in a rapid, and sometimes in a low and drawling delivery, (a proper attention to punctuation being secured, and rendered habitual to the scholar ;) the next point for the master's attention, is, those modulations of the voice, by which the reader accurately and forcibly conveys to his hearers the author's sense.

Here the duty of instruction by lecture, which was necessary through the whole course, becomes imperative.—The reader must be made to understand his subject, in order to convey it with effect to others; and the master has arrived at that part of his duty, in which it is his pleasing office to enrich the understanding of his pupil, in order to the perfection of his style.

This mode of making good readers certainly requires considerable patience, and some understanding and talent in the teacher; but, as persons not thus qualified are unfit for the office, and we do not write for the galloping masters of hedge schools, we hope the few hints that are here thrown out, will not prove useless; and we venture to assert, however difficult this plan may be found in the beginning, that, in the end, it will not only prove the most successful, but the least laborious.

And now to return to the school at Newport.—We found, on examining the progress of the pupils in this little seminary, that some of them wrote a fair hand, and a few appeared tolerably expert at figures.—Their interesting countenances, and their orderly manner of proceeding from

the school-house to their homes, particularly struck us as honourable to the discipline of this school, (and strongly indicative of the civilization and good manners of the pupils;) a part of their *aspective* history, (if we may forge a word,) to which we should not have attached implicit credit, had we only seen it put on as the holiday dress of a stranger's visit; but, from the decent conduct and interesting appearance of several female children, that we saw going backward and forward to that school, in our rides through the neighbourhood, we are well assured that their mild and interesting manners, like their modesty and beauty, were habitual.

Seats.

In the neighbourhood of Hillsborough there are many snug lodges, but not any thing deserving the name of a splendid seat, save that of the Marquis of Downshire, already noticed.—Of these lodges, one is the residence of Sir George Atkinson, a physician.—It is situated on the road from Hillsborough to Lisburn. This, with other seats in Downshire, so far as we shall be able to collect them, it is our intention to introduce as an appendix to our survey of the county, under the head of, “A Directory to the Seats and Post-Towns of Downshire.”—In the interim, however, we shall attempt a description of one or two of those *snug lodges*, to which we have adverted, as a specimen of the improvements that have been made on the Hillsborough estate.

Ballylinter.

An ancient family residence on the Hillsborough property, the seat of Andrew Cowan, Esq.—It comprehends a comfortable dwelling-house and 75 Irish acres of demesne; both of which (as is evident from the young plantations and modernized aspect of the lodge) have been considerably improved since the present resident came into possession.—To this improved aspect of the place, a very beautiful gate-house, which ornaments the approach, materially contributes; but notwithstanding those tasteful *touches* of Mr. Cowan's improving finger, the bad taste of the old school breaks out in the position of the house, which stands near a beautiful elevation, instead of looking down upon the country from its summit; a sort of *modern antiquity* (void of the beauty and character of both ages) by which many seats in Ireland, of much more splendid pretensions than Mr. Cowan's, have been sadly disgraced.

Ballylinter stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Hillsborough and Downpatrick, at the distance of nearly three miles from the former, which is its post town, and 73 miles north of Dublin.

Eglantine.

This beautiful feature of the Hillsborough property, the seat of Hugh Moore, Esq. from the elegant arrangement of its gate, avenue and plantations, and, from the fine view which it commands

of the town and spire of Lisburn, claims a note of distinction in an estimate of the beauties and improvements of this country.—It is situated 71 miles north of Dublin, and one mile north of Hillsborough, which is the post town to it.

Waring's town.

This interesting village, which forms a feature of distinction on the estate of Richard Holt Waring, Esq. is known on the western plains of Downshire, by its rural beauty, and distinguished in the commercial history of the county, by the respectable and long established cambric manufactory of Messrs. George M'Murray and Son.—Here 70 looms, furnishing employment to 300 hands, are engaged in the production of cambrics, which sell in the brown state, (in the English and Irish markets,) from two shillings to one guinea per yard, or from £2. 10s. to 25 guineas per piece.—The admission of French cambrics into the English market, under a very light duty, is said to have materially injured this trade; and, in fact, to have almost jolted the Irish cambrics out of the English market.

The proprietor's seat (of this village) and that of William Sharman, Esq. contribute to the picturesque of this place; and the neat lodge of Messrs. M'Murray, on a pretty farm of 27 Irish acres, to its aspect of comfort: but the trade of these respectable citizens, is, evidently the feature of this place, of most consequence to the labouring population.

Waring's town is situated 17 miles south of Belfast, and 65 north of Dublin, on the public road between Lurgan and Bannbridge, at the distance of two miles from the former and five of the latter, and either of these towns may be addressed, as the post town to it.

Springfield.

Springfield, the seat of Messrs. R. and T. Richardson, eminent linen and muslin merchants, in this province; and equally eminent factors in the linen hall of Dublin, is situated on the see lands of Dromore.—It is distinguished in this county (to which it makes no great contribution of the picturesque) solely by its trade; and in this also (from an overflow of English cotton goods in the Irish market) it had experienced, in common with all similar establishments, a sad reverse, when we passed through that district, in the year 1817.

Springfield comprehends a plain dwelling house, 85 Irish acres of demesne, and an establishment in the muslin manufacturing and bleaching departments; and in the days of Ireland's prosperity, nearly 1000 hands were employed here, and 15,000 pieces finished and sold in the Dublin market.—This latter number, however, was reduced to 1,500, one tenth of its former business, when we visited this factory; a sad reverse indeed; but in the factorage department, the company maintain a strong and extensive position in the Dublin market.

Soil.

The soil of Springfield, though light, is grassy, It produces tolerable crops of barley and oats; but, in the production of potatoes and other green crops it is most bountiful.

Prospect.

In point of prospect, the view from the rear of this house, over its own bleach yard, the river Lagan, and a few neat villas in its vicinity, to the mountains of Mourne, is, upon the whole, interesting. But this is the only view approaching to the picturesque that this seat can boast of.

Situation.

Springfield stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Moira and Lurgan, 15 miles west of Belfast, 66 north of Dublin, and one mile and a half from Lurgan, in the county of Armagh, which is the post town to it.

Grace-hall.

Grace-hall, the seat and part of the estate of Thomas Douglass, Esq. comprehends a very fine modern edifice, and 150 Irish acres of a demesne, lightly and ornamentally planted; of an undulating surface, a light soil in high heart, extremely well adapted to green crops (of which there were 21 Irish acres in 1817), and a good corn soil; producing, on an average, as we heard, about 14 barrels of oats to the acre.

Grace-hall, with the exception of a seat that we shall presently notice, is, for the most part, confined to its own improvements for the enjoyment of landscape beauty.—The plantations of Lurgan demesne, the seat of Colonel Brownlow, which appear condensed upon the western plain, are regarded with interest, as a grand outpost, and a rich and graceful object in that portion of the landscape.—Between those seats, the boundary line of the counties of Down and Armagh, takes its course; and from the Armagh side of that line, the incomparable demesne of Lurgan, (graced by the silver surface of Lough Neagh,) faintly extends the influence of her transcendent beauties across the line to Grace-hall—like the music of Apollo, when it descends from a lofty mountain, and falls in soft and trembling cadence on the distant vale—while Grace-hall, inspired by her example, and faithful to the post assigned her by Downshire, reflects the influence of her *less brilliant* charms on the Lurgan scene—like the shepherd in the distant valley, to whose ear the passing gale had conveyed the dying sound of Apollo's lute; he awakes his pipe to gratitude, and offers to the god the lowly tribute of his pastoral song!

Grace-hall stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Lurgan and Belfast (by Moira and Lisburn) at the distance of 17 miles south west of Belfast, 67 north-west of Dublin, and two English miles from Lurgan, in the county of Armagh, which is the post town to it.

N.B. The farther consideration of Lurgan, with the country on the Armagh side of that town, is reserved for our review of the county of Armagh, to which they properly belong; and shall be attentively noticed, in any future publication on Ulster, if the inhabitants of that most respectable neighbourhood shall furnish us with the necessary supplies of information in due time.

Downpatrick.

This town which derives its name from Saint Patrick the tutelar saint of Ireland (who was probably its founder, and whose tomb is here), derives its pre-eminence, as the metropolis of Downshire, from a source, which should be the last to recommend it to *moderns*; that is, *its extreme old age*.—It is however a *free* borough, a place of some trade; sends a representative to the imperial parliament; in unison with Connor is a bishop's see, and is reputed to contain a population of 6000 souls.

It is situated (or at least a considerable part of it) in a hole or hollow ground, that; in a time of carnage, or awful mortality, might be converted into a shire vault, (a good public accommodation in Ireland,) to save the county expense; as a hundred thousand putrid carcases could be easily interred there; an article of its history which every traveller may see, who chooses to look in, and who will no doubt wonder, that the *moderns* assembling there twice a year, to provide the county with all necessary accommodations, should have overlooked; particularly as the demand for graves appears to be rapidly increasing in that country.

For our own part, having no particular taste for this sort of improvement, we were unfashionable enough to think, that it would be better to remove *the human animalia* that we saw moving in the pit, to a more open and healthful situation near the town; and to plant and water this pit, as an appendage of health and beauty, instead of infection and deformity to the neighbourhood.—It is not impossible but our gloomy feelings, about the nature and offices of the pit, might have derived considerable force from the typhus fever, which was raging there, and with which, we understand, about 120 inhabitants (or families) had been visited in the summer of 1817.

On entering the town, the infection was perceptible to our senses!—We felt ourselves breathing a noxious atmosphere; and, to use the vulgar phraseology of our country, we thought every minute an hour, until the end of our visit to this place was answered.—On the third day of our residence there, we were seized with the usual symptoms of approaching fever, and being anxious, while memory remained, to arrive at head quarters, where we knew we should be taken care of, we ordered our solitary carriage to be prepared, and left this place under the influence of feelings, that, at this time, with a pain in the back, and a head considerably disordered, were not very enviable.—However, it pleased the Divine Providence to reserve the punishment of our offences to a future occasion, and to avert the blow which was then threatening.—For this event

we felt ourselves *instrumentally* indebted to a timely removal from the scene of infection, and a few hours gentle exercise, in a pure and healthful region, in our journey to head quarters; a fact of history, which may not prove useless to those physicians, who by copious draughts are in the habit of removing their patients to a place where the disorders of this world cannot reach them—but, on farther reflection, this hint is not *professional*, and will be of much more service to their patients!

As to the animalia in the pit, we would recommend it to be removed; as we detest the system of *burying alive*, which is now in fashion;—but, as human nature must suffer nearly as much by a lingering life of famine (which was a good deal in vogue at that time, and, they say, had even found its way into England, that once prosperous country) as by a slow system of suffocation, we would recommend the grand jury of the county, to have clean cottages and gardens provided for the poor of the pit, in a situation where they may—EAT AND LIVE, while they pay and labour.

Among the evidences of old age (we beg pardon for the *ungallant* expression, since towns, by the rules of music, are of the feminine gender) that recently distinguished Downpatrick, we heard of a round tower, which fell a victim to an ill-grounded apprehension, that sooner or later it would give way and fall upon the cathedral (which is one of the finest pieces of Gothic architecture in this province).—In consequence of this opinion of the wise

men of the town, the tower was undermined and laid low.—It was said, however, after this pride of ages had fallen, that the base upon which it stood was found sufficient to have supported it for a thousand years, and the architecture so firm, that, after severing the tower from its base, the structure remained entire, when its hoary honours were laid prostrate in the dust.

The cathedral just noticed, as also the new prison and court-house, (two magnificent modern edifices, that rank among the first buildings of the place,) stand, as they ought, on positions well elevated above the town.—There is also a very famous fort, or artificial mount, on the north side, which, from its magnitude and antiquity, is well calculated to attract attention; for, although in this province there are numerous Danish forts, as they are termed (but, most likely, erected by the natives, when Danish pirates over-ran the country; or perhaps long before), yet, as this is reputed to be one of the largest and loftiest in the province, it deserves peculiar notice, and the labour of erecting it must have been almost incalculable.

The town (although chiefly in a low position, and a part of it, as we have already noticed, in a pit) extends however a considerable way up the elevated grounds on the north-west and south-east sides; towards the extremities of which, the best private buildings are to be seen.—In this latter direction, the house occupied by Mr. Craig, and two very fine edifices erected by Mr. Henry, may be con-

sidered as the principal.—This latter gentleman, although an inhabitant of the town, follows business extensively in the country, having a flour-mill within four miles of the town, on a farm of which he possesses the fee, at a place called Rockville; and another farm in the vicinity of the town, on an estate of Lord De Clifford (a nobleman who resides in England.)—By much the greater part of Downpatrick stands on this nobleman's estate, and the remainder on properties of the Marquis of Downshire and Francis Savage, Esq., the seat of which latter gentleman is situated about three miles west of the town, and is denominated Hollymount.

Beside the cathedral, court house, and new prison, which are by much the most magnificent buildings in Downpatrick, it has also the county infirmary, a brown linen-hall, a diocesan school, and four or five houses of worship, for the sects residing there.—The trade of this town, for a place of such moderate appearance, is said to be considerable.—There are a few merchants in the timber, iron, corn, and coal trade.—The vessels concerned in the trade of this place usually anchor at Strangford, (which, as a port of Downshire, shall be noticed in this survey,) or at a place called Quoide, within a mile of this town, on a narrow branch of Strangford lough; which passes in this direction.

Beside the imports and exports of Downpatrick, the town has also four breweries in full work, with several tanyards and manufactories in the tobacco

and soap departments.—There is a charitable institution here founded by a Mr. Southwell, (grandfather to the present Lord de Clifford,) where 12 superannuated inhabitants, six male and six female, are accommodated with rooms and gardens, and an annual pension of £5 each.—In the same pile of building there are two dwelling houses (with gardens, &c.) for the accommodation of a male and female teacher, with a salary of £15 per annum to each.—Here, 24 poor children, 12 of each sex, are instructed in the elements of English literature, clad free of expense, (in the livery of the school,) and £3 per annum allowed for each pupil to their parents, to assist in supporting them.—These children are formed into a kind of choir, to assist in the service of the cathedral.

Downpatrick is situated 72 miles north of Dublin, in long. 5° 37' lat. 54° 18' north.

Ardglass.

Seven miles north east of Downpatrick is situated the old town of Ardglass; once a seaport of considerable trade on the coast of this county, and whose duties were let to farm, so lately as the beginning of the reign of Charles I.—At present, however, it is a decayed town, distinguished by a long range of building in the castle style, denominated by the inhabitants (as an Irish geographer, observes) the *new works*.—This ironical appellation, which the first spectators of the building have handed down to posterity, and the accuracy of which the latter have never questioned,

reminds us of another circumstance of equal *accuracy*, and much greater importance; namely, the character given by tyrants of the dark ages to men of virtue, who had opposed their oppressions; and which have been transmitted *pure* to posterity by the prejudiced and lying historians which they kept in pay.—In this way men denominated, by the gospel, “the salt of the earth” (and if the advocates of the truth of God and the true liberties of men, are not such, the words have no meaning) have been traduced in all ages, by oppressors standing highly elevated above the rest of mankind, upon the ruins of truth and justice.—So priests (an order of men that never dies) represented the pure doctrines of Christianity to be hostile to the Roman state, because hostile to their own fraud and falsehood.—So corrupt histories of the Christian church (handed down to posterity by priests also) MISNAME many faithful martyrs of Christ, who had been butchered by THEIR ORDER, for bearing testimony against religious and political corruptions; and so many men, of true political virtue, in various countries, will now be denominated, by those who have an interest in the maintenance of abuses, and by the historians whom they hire to mislead mankind.—This business however will not do, even though myriads of corrupt men may be kept in pay to maintain it.—It is hostile to the reason and true interests of mankind.—It is hostile to every page of the gospel of Jesus Christ.—In a word it is hostile to the benevolent designs of the Almighty, in re-

lation to his suffering creation; and although INJUSTICE should be clothed with all the pomp of earthly magnificence, enriched with the gold of *Zophir* and the wealth of the two Indies; have myriads of hired prostitutes to go before it, and cry, "bow the knee."—And lastly, although it should destroy myriads of men, by treachery or by force, and should dispute every inch of the way, from its seat of power upon earth to its seat of suffering in hell; still the POWER that is against it will ultimately triumph.—It will enlighten the reason of mankind, and give that reason force and opportunities of victory; and, the gospel of Jesus Christ (which is practically and politically JUST) will win its widening way, until the kingdoms of the world, as the prophecies of the Scripture testify, become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ—that is, KINGDOMS REGULATED IN THEIR CIVIL POLICY, BY THE TRUTH AND JUSTICE OF HIS RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS; an event, which is approaching, for which the light of letters is preparing mankind, and which the advocates of injustice may postpone, but cannot ultimately prevent.

This digression from our brief history of Ardglass being now disposed of, we shall return to the curious *new works*, which we left unfinished. They comprise, as we have already mentioned, a long range of building in the castle style, of the use and design of which the inhabitants however are said to have no tradition, notwithstanding their strict preservation of the name by which those works were originally distinguished.—The build-

ing extends 250 feet in length, 24 in breadth, and the thickness of the walls three feet.—It has three towers in front, one at each end, and one in the centre, which bespeak an elegant and uniform design.

The building is composed of two tiers of apartments, (or if you please, two suits of rooms,) one above the other, each containing 18 apartments, with a staircase conducting to the upper tier from the centre of the building.—A gothic door and a large square window (which enlighten and open a passage to each of the ground-floor apartments,) have induced certain travellers to conclude, that the *new works* at Ardglass, were erected as sale rooms and stores for foreign merchandise, when this fort was a place of considerable trade, as it is reputed to have been in former times; more particularly, as within 10 feet of the south side of the building, stands a staired castle, denominated Horn Castle from a quantity of ox, deer, and cow horns, being found about it, (the offal no doubt of hides which had been given in exchange for foreign merchandise,) and this castle is supposed to have been built for the accommodation of merchants trading with this port, as the *new works* had been for the reception of their merchandise; a conclusion, from its aspect of probability, that we have ventured to adopt.—The castle is two stories high, and from the fire places, and other marks of occupation which it exhibits, it was no doubt a domestic appendage to the stores.

Besides the buildings just noticed, there are

some other ruins here, in the castle style; and within the north east point of Ardglass harbour there is a cave, with an approach on the shore side, that is deserving the notice of the curious.

The Manx fishing fleet anchors at Ardglass, in the interval of the herring fishing season, which generally extends from November until June.—It is considered, by some, to be the first fishing village on this shore.

A harbour had been formed here by a grant from parliament; but this liberality of the legislature is said to have been rendered abortive, by the unskilful manner in which the work was executed.

This little port derives an influence of beauty from the castle of the late Lord Lekale, who resided here.—It is now the seat and property of William Ogleby, Esq.

The light house lately erected on that point of the coast, is a good landscape object; but its utility to the poor mariner, is the true and useful feature of its character.—Killough is the post town to this place.

Castlewellan village and demesne.

In your progress from Downpatrick to this remote but beautiful scene of Down, which is the seat of Earl Annesley (and is situated on the margin of the county) you pass near Hollymount, Seaford, and Mount Penter, three seats of respectability in that section of the county.—Mount Pen-

ter stands in full view of the traveller on that road, and by its fine edifice, lawn and plantations, (the production of the late Lord Annesley, who purchased and improved it,) gives you a momentary foretaste of the scene upon which you are entering.—This seat is situated near the village of Clough, about 5 miles from Downpatrick, and nearly equidistant from that town and Castlewellan; and from hence you proceed through an open and well cultivated country (though not so richly embellished as the shores of Carrickfergus bay and Strangford lough) to Castlewellan.—The Mourne mountains form a bold and beautiful outline to the landscape in this direction.—The ancient castle of Dundrum, which stands elevated on a mount over an arm of the sea, is also a fine object in this view,—and with these, the churches of Seaford and Kilmagan, combine to interest the traveller in his solitary journey.—The attractions of the landscape multiply as you approach Castlewellan.—The spires of that splendid seat rise upon the view.—Its plantations enrich the scene; and the approximation of the latter with the Mourne mountains, becoming every moment more and more sensible as you approach Castlewellan, the feelings of the traveller in pursuit of the picturesque, are increasingly excited.—The spires alluded to are two in number; that which surmounts the market house of the village, and that which graces a singularly beautiful temple in the demesne.—This view extends from the Downpatrick road, in a straight line to Castlewellan, which stands on a

noble elevation near the mountains of Mourne, whose lofty summits rise above it with incomparable grandeur.—The beauty, symmetry, and spacious appearance of this village, with its appropriate market house, spire and town clock, (which must be inspected on the spot.) The attractive appearance and commercial character of two bleach yards in a valley, through which you pass in your approach to the village; and the richly planted hills which you must necessarily ascend in order to arrive there; combine, with the other works of nature and of art, to render this one of the most magnificent and beautiful scenes in the territory of Down.

The proprietors of the bleach yards noticed in this drive, are, Mr. William Murland, and Mr. James Murland.—Their mills are turned by a stream which proceeds from a lake in Lord Annesley's demesne, (on whose estate these improvements are situated.)—This stream in its descent, forms, on the first of these concerns (which is capable of finishing 7 or 8,000 pieces of linens annually) three falls, and on the latter two.—These useful citizens have expended large sums on their respective establishments, on a lease of three lives or 31 years, which seems to evidence some confidence in the Annesley family.—It may be presumed however, that trade does not flourish here generally; at least it did not in 1817, when we visited that village.—It is true, the linen trade was then labouring under great depression; but the population of this neighbourhood is said to be very

poor.—Whether this poverty proceeds from the want of a resident gentry (for beside Lord Annesley himself, there are but few resident gentlemen in this neighbourhood), from a soil not bountiful to the cultivators, from a decay of the linen manufacture, or from what other cause or combination of causes, is best known to the intelligent inhabitants.—So far, however, as a strong understanding, an extensive knowledge of the world, and a constant residence among his people, may be supposed adequate to the improvement of an estate, we believe those qualities are eminently united in the person of Lord Annesley.

The demesne and farm of Castlewella are well worth seeing.—They comprehend 4 or 500 acres of hill and dale, richly embellished with plantations, accommodated with a mansion, lodge, and its necessary appendages, a beautiful gothic temple, for rest and pleasure, (already noticed in our progress from Downpatrick, as lifting its spheric cone among the mountains, with great grandeur,) a farm,—the fields of which present to the view of the agriculturist, the most pleasing evidences of good husbandry; and lastly, a farm yard, comprehending more extensive accommodations in that department, than are usually to be met with in a manufacturing district; among which, the barn, comprising several divisions for straw and grain, with capital machinery, worked by horses, and measuring 100 feet by 65, is not the least calculated to attract the attention of the tourist, who feels an interest in the improvement of his country.

The prospect from the fine elevation on which the temple stands (over the mansion house and an incomparably beautiful lake that waters this demesne) to the Mourne mountains, is grand beyond description.—The sombre hue of those mighty mountains, and the deep rich shade which they shed upon the scene, (while bending over the beauties of the valley,) give an air of solemn grandeur to the temple, the town, the lawn, lake, and lodges, that can only be tasted with rapture by that eye through which the majesty of nature communicates itself in silent eloquence to the imagination.—To attempt describing the influence of such a scene upon the faculties of a fine intelligent being, would be as wild in theory, as it would be imperfect in practice.—To feel the beauty and majesty of NATURE, you must see her with your own eye; and, in her presence the finest works of art tremble, and the poet and the painter conceal themselves in a *cleft* of her rock.

The gardens of Castlewellan cover an area of seven acres, walled in.—They appeared (considering the unfavourable autumn of 1817) to contain a good deal of wall fruit, and to be well stocked with small fruit, as also with those vegetable productions that are necessary for daily use; but there were no hot houses in those gardens, at the period of our visit to Castlewellan.

In addition to that mountain view, which we noticed from the temple, as having put to flight the aspiring genius of Description; this beautiful gothic structure also commands a most interesting

view of the village and village spire, rising above the general landscape, on the western boundary of the demesne.

The village has a post office ; a weekly market, for the sale of linen yarn, potatoes, and other products of the country, and six fairs in the year.—It stands 15 miles north west of Newry, and 65 north of Dublin.

The soil is said to be a cold gravel, retentive of water, and requiring to be drained with great skill, preparatory to those farther improvements which are necessary to render it productive.

Newcastle.

From Castlewellan we drove to the interesting village of Newcastle, which also stands on a property of Earl Annesley, on the Downshire coast, and southern extremity of the bay of Dundrum.—It is supposed to derive its name from a castle built by Felix Magenis, one of the Lords of the barony of Iveagh.—This castle is in good preservation, it is reputed to be the best residence in the village, and, as such, is rented from Lord Annesley by the Board of Customs, for the accommodation of an officer of the revenue, who is always stationed there.—At the period of our visit, this castle was inhabited by William Beer, Esq., who did the double duty of an officer of the port, and a magistrate of the county.

This village, exclusive of the castle which is its proudest internal feature, may probably contain 200 neat hamlets, and a population of 1000

souls, beside the persons who reside here, *pro tempore*, for the benefit of the waters.

With the aid of a parliamentary grant of £5,000, a harbour had been partially formed at this place, with the intention of rendering it a place of rendezvous, for the revenue cutters cruising on this coast; but although this work has not been completed, it is said that this *half formed* harbour has proved useful, as furnishing a temporary asylum to vessels in danger of being embayed in the bay of Dundrum, of which, a Liverpool trader freighted with live stock, and proceeding to that port from Dublin, was one example.—Her distress happening to be discovered by the inhabitants of the village, a signal was hoisted on the shore, which the captain happily perceiving, he steered his vessel, though with considerable difficulty, to this *half formed* harbour, and under the protection of that portion of the pier which had been erected on the south side of the bay, escaped from the danger that awaited him.—As the information collected by a tourist in his passage through a country, is, no doubt, liable to many exceptions (although we presume none will deny but many useful hints have been gleaned even by the statesman [from such writers] the authenticity of our information, as to the history of this bay, can be easily collected from those mariners who are in the habit of navigating the channel.

However dangerous to mariners this bay may be, in south or south-east winds, there is one article

of its history (communicated to us by very competent authority) that deserves to be noticed, from its connection with our fishing interests; namely, the plentiful supply of haddock, cod-fish, flat-fish and even turbot, that the fishermen frequenting this coast obtain here, and which they bring for sale to the Newry and Belfast markets.

Beside the position of this village on the margin of the bay, which may be supposed to contribute materially to the beauty of its aspect, the influence of the lofty Sleibghdonard, on whose north-east margin the village stands, may be better conceived, from a reference to the magnitude of this object, and a mental review of it standing over the bay and village, in all the majesty of mountain grandeur, than from any puny description of a poet, or equally puny sketch of a painter's pencil.—These landscapes must be seen in order to be known.—Their effect upon the living organ, cannot be communicated by the best paintings, (unless through the medium of a camera obscura, which deceives the eye with a good imitation of their shapes and colours;) how then shall the description of a scene, though drawn with the strictest accuracy, produce an impression of its beauty upon the imagination; since even the landscape painter, who gives you the shape and colours of his scene, must call in the aid of a camera obscura, or he will enter, in vain, into a competition with the magic powers of his subject?—The poet may, indeed, make the gigantic Sleibghdonard, with other mighty mountains of that chain, the subject

of his song.—He may compare Sleibghdonard to Jove, ready to hurl down his thunderbolts upon the lofty castle of this village, standing like a feudal chief with his vassals, (the numerous hamlets of Newcastle,) arranged around him.—The other mountains of the Mourne chain, may be regarded as the attendants of Jove, in this angry expedition against the chief of Newcastle, whose crime was that of assisting Neptune to save certain mariners from destruction, that Jove had ordered Æolus to destroy.—All this may be told exceedingly well, and a long story may be made of it; but after the poet has finished this part of his plot, and even added, in plain prose, that the prospect from the castle extends to the spire and plantations of Tullamore-park, one of the finest demesnes in Ireland, and to the castle of Dundrum, which is one of the finest landscape objects in Downshire, he will be laughed at for his pains, the moment that Sleibghdonard and his spouse, the goddess of the waters, are revealed to the spectator's eye, in all their native charms of *naked* majesty and beauty.

Newcastle is situated about 67 miles north of Dublin, and three miles north of Castlewella, which is the post town to it.

Tollymore.

While in the neighbourhood of Castlewella and Newcastle, we visited Tollymore, the seat of John Keown, Esq.—It stands on the Newcastle estate, and comprehends a neat lodge and 60 Irish

acres of demesne, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mourne mountains, which bear upon this scene as upon every other in their neighbourhood, with magnificent effect.—The prospect from hence to the village of Newcastle, and to that beautiful portion of the Irish Channel, on whose beach it stands, is highly interesting; and to this prospect a distinct view of the castle of Dundrum makes a pleasing addition.—In fine, this little seat has the honour of being situated in an eminently decorated valley, where art and nature appear to have exerted all their powers to render the scene romantically grand and striking.

The road from Castlewellan to Newcastle, runs in a line nearly parallel with the Mourne mountains, and proceeding directly to the sea, renders this drive extremely interesting.

The soil on this portion of the coast is not wet like certain parts of the interior; but a dry sandy soil producing tolerably good crops of corn.—Our reports of soil are derived, for the most part, from respectable inhabitants of the country.—In our circumstances it was impossible (with the exception of the landscapes) to see every thing with our own eye, and to prove, by experiment, the accuracy or error of the reports made to us; except so far as these reports could be ascertained by observation and inquiry, during a short residence in each district.—So far as such a residence enabled us, we made it our study to discover, by actual observation, the state of the several districts through which we passed; but we were necessarily

dependent on the inhabitants of those districts for many articles of information, material to the history of the country; and, when we deemed the information thus communicated to us, respectable, we did not hesitate to enrol it, as authentic, in our records.—Opportunities, however, frequently presented of examining these reports by other authorities, and of proving their validity by actual inspection, and whenever those opportunities presented, we felt it to be an imperative duty to embrace them.—This mode of procedure taken into account, we trust no mistake of capital importance has crept into our descriptions of this country; but, if any such has been *imposed* on us, the moment that imposition shall be made known by unerring authority, it shall be publicly corrected; for we have no interest to pursue that truth should be ashamed of; nor any end in view, save the interest and honour of our country.

Tollymore stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Newry and Newcastle, at the distance of 16 miles from the former, one mile from the latter, and two miles from Castlewellan, which is the post town to it.

Tullamore-park.

This celebrated demesne, the property of the Earl of Roden, is one of those fine works of art and nature, which a moderate capacity must despair of placing adequately before the public eye, in a descriptive portrait.

We drove from Newcastle to see this proud

feature of Downshire, the only time in our lives that we have had that pleasure; and entering the grand gate, we proceeded by a row of excellent offices (with a tower, clock, and spire,) to inspect the demesne.

The lofty mountains of Mourne, with Sleibghdonard in the rear of this grand group, and an extensive green mountain, richly planted, that skirts the lawn, bear full upon your view as you enter the grand gate.—In your descent from this gate to the lawn, you not only pass by the spire and offices attached to the house, but also a small pleasure garden; and after moving 20 or 30 paces towards the lawn, a landscape inconceivably grand presents itself.—In your approach through the gate, you are entertained with a grand mountain view through a defile—but here, to the majesty of the Mourne mountains, which overhang the landscape in front, and the planted mountain of more modest altitude that bounds the lawn, with a most interesting cottage on its declivity, are added, the variegated beauties of an open country, and the entire rich and picturesque group of features that characterize the home view.—Among the former may be included, as of prime importance to the general scene, the Irish Channel on the left hand, with Felix Magenis's famous castle on the sea shore.—Among the latter, the woody hills and glens of the demesne, extending to the right in front of the lawn, the interesting cottage on the declivity of the planted mountain; and on the lawn itself, a beautiful monument, erected to the

memory of the Hon. James Jocelyn, R. N. (second son to the late Earl of Roden).—The objects composing this scene have now been detailed, and may be compressed into a small compass on the descriptive page.—The lofty mountains of Mourne, that overhang the front view; the planted mountain of more modest altitude, that bounds the lawn, in a line nearly parallel with them (with a beautiful cottage on its declivity).—The Irish channel, with that castle on the sea shore which has been noticed, bounding the landscape on the left.—A portion of the woods and glens of Tullamore park, on the right; and between these objects, a capacious lawn, with the mansion-house and offices near the approach, and the noble monument just noticed in the centre.

These features of the demesne are soon given in detail, and with the detail, the poverty of the description is established; as the mind will certainly conclude, that possesses sufficient sensibility to collect an image of the scene, even from a recital of the objects that compose it; but that imagination must indeed be barren, that with such assistance, will not far outstrip the pigmy representations of the richest painting.

In the monument erected to the memory of Mr. Bligh, there is the following Latin inscription:

Eheu Quam Multæ
 Tecum perierunt
 Mihi deliciae
 Tu vero felix
 et Beatus
 fili Jacobe care
 Qui tot tantisque miseriis
 Una morte perfunctus.

Thus translated :

" Alas ! with you how many pleasures have perished ! You are happy and blessed, my dear son James, who art freed from so many and so great miseries, by death."

On another part of the pedestal, the following :

This sacred monument was placed
 To thee, thou darling boy ;
 Whose love and duty never ceased
 To give thy parent joy.

His care relieved thy infant wants,
 He watched thy ripening age ;
 Hope, that religion only grants,
 His sorrow can assuage.

Also in Italian.

Lui che 'l ciel ne mostra
 La Terra nasconde.

Thus translated :

Him, whom the heavens will shew us,
 The earth now hides from us.

The Hermitage.

The hermitage, which you approach by a deep descent from the lawn, is composed of a huge

mass of rough stones piled up together, and forming, in the interior, a chamber of 12 feet by 8, with a sort of arched door-way, on each end, and two open spaces of similar form, but much larger, on the river side.—In this homely hermitage (the meditations of whose inhabitant are rendered solemn by the murmuring of the river) a stone bench, the full length of the enclosure, has been arranged for his couch or resting place.—The planted hill, which forms the opposite bank of the river, confines the hermit's attention to the romantic scenery of his cell, and shuts out every foreign object, every illusive scene of that lower world to which he has bid an eternal adieu!—The rocks, the trees, the murmuring river, and the interesting cell which form his retreat from the tempest, are the only objects that present themselves to his view; and if his constitution, like that of the ancient hermits of the desert, can accommodate itself to this damp apartment, and support itself on the crystal fluid, and on the herbs and flowers that grow spontaneously on the mountains; then the hermit who shall inhabit this place, may be as happy, as his ancient brethren of the desert—provided, like them, that his love to the deity has rendered his soul superior to sensuality, and his body impervious to those nightly dews and contending elements, that so often prove destructive to *mere human nature*.

In the back wall of the hermitage, there stands a stone with the following inscription:

ΚΛΑΝΒΡΑΣΣΙΛΛΟΣ
 ΜΟΝΘΕΡΜΕΡΩ
 ΦΙΛΩ ΗΔΥΤΑΤΩ
 ΕΤΕΙ
 ΧΙΓΗΗΗΓΙΛΛΛ*

Cascade.

The cascade descends from one of the Mourne mountains, and drops into the river which we have just noticed (as passing through the hermitage enclosure, in its progress to the sea).—Three or four bridges pass over this river, and form communications between the lawns of this demesne, and the planted and unplanted mountains beyond them.

Bryanstown.

A rural village, which they call Bryanstown, on the margin of this demesne, is a useful and pleasing appendage to this seat—pleasing, from its cheerful aspect; and useful, from the inn which it contains for the accommodation of the visitors of this splendid beauty.

Tullamore park is reputed to contain 1,200 Irish acres; and, we may truly say, that such a combination of wood with water; of lofty mountains with lowly vallies, and of all which is necessary

* We have copied the above inscription as accurately as we could distinguish it; but we can neither answer for the accuracy of the sculptor, nor are we competent to translate it.—It has been examined by good linguists; but they find the second and last lines totally incomprehensible.

to fill the vastness of the imagination with an impression of the grandeur and beauty of a perfect scene, we have seldom witnessed in our travels through this country.

Tullamore-park stands near the southern coast of Down, 15 miles north of Newry, 65 north of Dublin, and two miles from Castlewellan, which is the post town to it.

Donaghadee, Portaferry, and Strangford.

We shall next notice that district of the coast, which includes the towns of Donaghadee, Portaferry, and Strangford; between the first of which ports and that of Portpatrick in Scotland, packets regularly ply, for the conveyance of the mail and passengers, between Scotland and Ireland.—There is a light-house on one of the Copeland islands, in this neighbourhood, and Donaghadee has a public building, that we would denominate (if the value of the customs collected there was to be estimated by the aspect of the structure) the mockery of a custom house.—The harbour is also said to be very defective, but we heard that Government has it in contemplation to supply this defect, by the erection of a pier on the west side, which will be a valuable accommodation to the packets, and to the trade anchoring in this port. This latter is indeed very slender, consisting chiefly of live stock, occasionally shipped for Scotland, and Scotch coal brought over in return.—The communication between Ireland and Scotland, by the packets, renders material service to

the hotels of this town, and furnishes a coach between Belfast and this port with employment; but beyond what has been just now mentioned, Donaghadee appears to furnish few materials for history.

Seats.

The principal part of the town and immediate neighbourhood of Donaghadee, are in the possession of Mr. Dela Cherois, who generally resides here (but was travelling on the continent in 1817.) Mr. Alexander M'Minn (whose seat we shall presently notice) and his brother, also possess a part of the town and neighbouring lands, purchased by their family from a Lord Mount Alexander, who died in 1757.

Herdstown.

Herdstown, the seat and part of the estate of Alexander M'Minn, Esq. comprehends a neat country house, and about 100 Conyngham acres of demesne* (nearly one fourth of this estate.)—From the aspect of this demesne, it appeared to be devoted chiefly to agriculture.—The lands in the immediate neighbourhood of Donaghadee are held by the under tenants, as we were informed, during discretion; a bad way to encourage improvement.—Houses in the town, and plots for building, are let for 61 years, and some in perpetuity.

* The Conyngham acre is a measurement nearly equidistant from the English and Irish acre.

Herdstown stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Donaghadee and Newtown-Ardes, 93 miles north of Dublin, and one mile from Donaghadee, which is the post town to it.

Ballywilliam-cottage.

This neat cottage, the seat of James Arbuckle, Esq. collector of the port of Donaghadee, was erected by this gentleman on a demesne of 84 Conyngham acres; a tract, previous to his entering upon it, that is said to have been little better than a barren heath, but which, in 1817, wanted only the improving finger of the landscape gardener, to render it a neat and interesting residence.

It is distant from Donaghadee, which is its post town, one Irish mile, and 93 north of Dublin.

Woburn.

This seat, which is the property and residence of John Dunbar, Esq. constitutes a part of the lands of Drumfad and Ballyrolly, which are said to be composed of a strong clay soil, moderately productive.

The lands on this coast are chiefly manured with sea-weed, of which the inhabitants appear to have a plentiful supply.

Castle-Ards.

This seat derives its denomination from a castle, which the proprietor, Nicholas de la Cherois

Cromelin, Esq. (lord of the manor of Donaghadee,) designs to erect here.—The demesne comprehends about 100 acres, (one twelfth of the whole estate,) a plain mansion house, which will be shortly abandoned, and some ornamental plantations; and, in point of prospect, it commands a very interesting view over the water to Elsee rock, to the south-west coast of Scotland, and, on the land side, to the Black Head and other elevated grounds on the coast of Antrim, over a country highly planted and improved.

This seat stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Donaghadee and Gray Abbey, formerly the residence of Lord Mount Alexander, and now the beautiful seat of William Montgomery, Esq.—It is distant from Donaghadee, which is its post town, four Irish miles, and 93 north of Dublin.

A View.

In proceeding from Donaghadee to Portaferry, the traveller will have an interesting prospect, from an elevation on the road, previous to his entering Kirkcubbin, a village on the eastern shore of Strangford lough.—This lough (which washes the land on the margin of the road) forms a fine crystal expanse in that place; and the view over it to the mountains of Mourne is incomparably fine.—You will, however, find but few plantations on this coast, the sea breeze being unfavourable to their growth, and hence the scenery is less rich and luxuriant than one would suppose

nature had intended, when she first drew the outline of this landscape.—The neat farm house of Mr. James Allen, on the hill from whence this prospect was taken, contributes its proportion of effect to the general interest of the scene.

On a pleasing elevation to the left of Strangford lough, stands a seat (though not very extensive yet) of too much distinction in the *living history* of this district, to be passed over, in a work which aspires to give "*the form and pressure*" of the country.

Summer-hill.

This seat of Major Boyd stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Kirkcubbin and Ballyhalbert, a fishing village on the eastern extremity of the coast of Down.—It is a creation of the present resident, (though not on his own estate,) and comprehends a plain modern edifice and a small *demesne*, which he has highly improved.—It is, however, due to the truth of history to acknowledge, that Summer-hill derives its historical distinction chiefly from the taste and highly cultivated talents of Mrs. Boyd, the queen of this little fairy scene, and is indebted, for some of its most interesting features, to her more improving finger.*

Among these latter, we noticed with peculiar pleasure, her moss-house and hermit's garden; the beauties of which interesting objects can only

* We read with concern the demise of this lady in the public papers, some time since.

be felt and understood by those who have a passion for the charms of solitude; whose admiration of these improvements must undoubtedly keep pace with their knowledge of that taste and intellect which called them into being. — To this sentiment we believe every person will subscribe, who will accompany us *in idea* to this moss-house, and there read the following poetic effusions of its fair founder.

Verses in the moss-house.

1.

Come hither ye, who dwell with kings,
Forbear a while the pomp of state;
Of titles, honours, empty things,
And own content in this retreat.

2.

What, though no Grecian columns rise,
Bedeck'd with sculpture, rich and chaste;
Simplicity, in rustic guise,
May not, I deem, be void of taste.

3.

And you, ye lowlier sons of care,
Come hither and repose awhile;
You'll meet no gaudy pageants here,
But tranquil joys shall care beguile.

4.

And, oh! should chance propitious lead,
Some child of fancy to my bower;
With critic eye he will not heed,
But cull with me the mountain flower.

5.

Wild, devious as yon ocean's breeze,
 We'll ramble o'er the sylvan spot ;
 Weave chaplets gay beneath the trees,
 Or pensive seek the sober grot.

6.

And oft the Muses here shall stray,
 And oft some votive breast inspire,
 To sing a rustic roundelay,
 Or softly touch the Paphian lyre.]

7.

Come hither then, nor dare despise
 These humble scenes I rudely sing ;
 For, trust me, in their calmness lies
 More bliss than courts can ever bring.

Hermitage.

1.

Tread lightly, stranger, if you seek
 To view the Hermit's walks and flowers ;
 Let no rude step, a soul so meek,
 Disturb, 'midst these his sacred bowers.

2.

Nor hand profane presume to touch
 The simplest of his fragrant treasure,
 But grateful taste, and own how much,
 How long, he's toil'd, to give you pleasure.

3.

So shall his rocks, his cell, his grove,
 Infuse a calmness o'er thy mind ;
 The heart oppressed by grief or love,
 Shall here a tranquil moment find.

4.

Then gently step, with reverence due,
 Approach his peaceful mossy cell ;
 Void of offence towards Heav'n or you,
 He's only bade the world farewell.

Prospect.

In point of prospect, the little villa of Summer hill possesses pre-eminent advantages among the seats of this neighbourhood.—The view from the drawing room windows and little lawn of this villa, over the village of Kirkcubbin and the fine lough of Strangford, to the mountains of Mourne, beggars description. The calm and silent sky under which we enjoyed this evening scene, in the autumn of 1817—the golden richness of the sun, in its descent upon the western landscape—the preclusion of the beach and of every other rude and offensive object, by the gentle elevation of the intervening lands—the richness of the foliage on the lawn—the modest village in the valley; and the wide crystal fluid, over which the mountains appeared to lift their lofty summits; all conspired to render perfect this silent and sublime spectacle—a scene, which we are sure, if regarded in the stillness of night, when Cynthia in the fullness of her pride, rides triumphant in the Heavens, and reflects upon the glassy wave and upon the sombre hue of the lofty mountains beyond it, the glory of her borrowed beam, that would be acknowledged by the lover of nature, as capable of infusing into the soul of sensibility the most interesting and sublime sensations!

Summer hill stands 16 miles west of Belfast, 97 north of Dublin, and from Kirkcubbin, which is its post town, about 4 furlongs.

Echlin ville.

Echlin-ville, the seat of John Echlin, jun. Esq., (Lord of the manors of Ballyhalbert and Cloughy, in the barony of Ardes,) is part of a tract of 1800 acres of a cold argillaceous soil, the inheritance of this family.—It commands a fine open view of the country towards Portaferry and Downpatrick, and is situated on a county road, which opens a communication between the villages of Kirkcubbin and Portaferry, at the distance of 85 miles north of Dublin, (by Strangford and Downpatrick,) and one mile from Kirkcubbin, which is the post town to it.

Thomastown.

Thomastown, the seat of Mr. Donning, (a worthy seafaring citizen, formerly connected with other merchants in the West India trade, but now retired from business to spend the remainder of his days in this pleasing retreat,) comprehends a handsome farm lodge and 80 acres of land, devoted to agricultural uses.—In point of prospect it commands several interesting broken views of Strangford lough, and of the elevated country beyond it, between little hills which grace the landscape extending from this farm to the eastern shore of the lough just noticed.

Thomastown stands within an English mile of that public road, which we have already noticed as opening a communication between Donaghadee and Portaferry, 82 miles north of Dublin, (by Strangford, Downpatrick and Newry,) and two

miles from Portaferry, which is the post town to it.

Portaferry house.

Portaferry house, the seat of Colonel Nugent, stands in the vicinity of the picturesque town of Portaferry, which may be considered as the proudest feature of improvement on this gentleman's estate, which is said to comprehend a tract of 5,000 Conyngham acres, besides 300 acres of demesne richly wooded; and commanding several interesting views, over the channel, to the isle of Man, the coast of Scotland, and the mountains of Mourne, in our own country.—The home view to the village of Strangford, over the lough, which forms a wide crystal expanse in that place, although not so eminently distinguished by the grandeur of space, as the foreign views, is nevertheless an animated scene, and strongly picturesque.—To this rich character of the home view, the luxuriant and widely extended plantations of the demesne, largely contribute; but these you cannot so fully enjoy in the foreign views, from the necessity you are under of raising the instrument of vision, above and beyond the region of your immediate presence, to distant objects.

This seat stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Belfast and Portaferry, through Newton Ardes and Kirkeubbin, about 80 miles north of Dublin (by Strangford and Downpatrick) and Portaferry, on this estate, is the post town to it.

Towns of Portaferry and Strangford.

The towns of Portaferry and Strangford, may be considered as picturesque objects, in this fine district of the lough of Strangford.—The former of these villages stands on the north east shore of the ferry, which opens a communication between Strangford lough and the Irish channel; and the latter, directly opposite to this, on the south west bank.—North of Portaferry and Strangford, the lough forms a beautiful crystal expanse of four or five miles in breadth; and, from the quay of Portaferry (situated under a richly planted elevation in Colonel Nugent's demesne) the prospect over the ferry to the village of Strangford, to the fine house and plantations of Castleward, (which had the house been whitewashed, would have contributed more effectually to illuminate the landscape,) and to two or three ancient castles on the distant shore, is incomparably fine.—The quay contains several very neat edifices; but of these, the new built house of H. W. Watson, Esq., has by much the best aspect.—The approach to this house (by a flight of stone steps) through handsome palisadoes and a richly decorated area, gives it a material advantage over the other buildings of that place.

The town of Portaferry, in addition to its enjoyment of the splendid prospect over Strangford lough, is most materially indebted for its landscape beauty, to its proximity to that fine demesne, which formed the subject of the last memoir.—The ruin

of a castle, erected in the 15th or 16th century, (as far as we could judge from its appearance,) contributes also, by its venerable aspect, to shed an air of antiquity upon this town. In point of commerce, it imports timber from America, Norway, and Prussia.—It carries on a trade with Liverpool, in corn; with Whitehaven, in live stock; with Dublin, in potatoes, corn and kelp; and brings over from the first of these ports, sugar, rum, and woollen cloths; from the second, coal; and from the metropolis of our island, whiskey.—Mr. Gelston, the principal merchant of this little port, informed us, that its average imports and exports, each respectively, amounted annually, since the peace of Europe, to about £25,000; and during the war, to about £30,000.—Here and elsewhere on the lough, a herring fishery is carried on, which also may be recognized as a branch of the trade of this place.—The herrings are carried by the fishermen so far from hence, as to the ports of Liverpool and Dublin; and there sold fresh: but there are few or no herrings cured in this little port for exportation.—The manufacturing of a sea weed called box wreck, into kelp, may be considered as a part of the trade of this place, in common with every other part of the Strangford shore.—About 1000 tons weight of this kelp is manufactured in the district just noticed, and disposed of chiefly in the markets of Dublin and Glasgow.—The town of Portaferry is supplied with groceries and other shop goods from Belfast, *by land*, and therefore we have not included these

in the above estimate of its trade.—There is a weekly market and five fairs here in the year, for the ordinary products of the country.

Portaferry, by Downpatrick and Newry, (the best road,) stands about 80 miles north of Dublin.—In your progress from thence to all those places, you cross the Strangford ferry, which is about one mile broad at this place.

The most interesting view which you have of this town, with its castle and neighbouring demesne, is that horizontal one with which the Strangford shore presents you, over the beautiful surface of the lough; and, for the enjoyment of which, the custom house of Strangford is the best position.—The offices of collector, (with a pro-collector,) port surveyor, land waiter, and tide waiter, are attached to the port of Strangford.—The gentlemen filling these offices, at the period of our visit, behaved courteously, on this public occasion. The trade of Strangford is chiefly in coal, and from hence and Portaferry the inhabitants in the vicinity of Strangford lough are chiefly supplied with that article.—The revenue establishment is maintained here for the prevention of a contraband trade, for which the numerous little islands in this lough are extremely well calculated.

The ruin of a very fine castle in Strangford, (rendered additionally venerable by the ivy in which it is enveloped) combines with the neat villas around it, with the numerous flotillas on the water, the village of Portaferry, and other objects on the distant shore, to render Strangford a pleas-

ing and picturesque residence, to those who frequent it in the summer season for the benefit of the waters.

Strangford is a post town and has two fairs in the year.—Its distance from Dublin may be ascertained by a reference to the record of Portaferry.

Killough.

This village (if that be not a contradiction in terms) has been noticed as a post town, in our description of Ardglass.—It stands also upon the Strangford shore, which has the honour of being graced by several little ports and fishing villages of similar extent.—It is distinguished in the commercial history of the lough, by its exportation of corn to Liverpool, and to the different ports of Ulster; a branch of trade, in which a Mr. Russel (a respectable inhabitant of the village, and a proprietor of salt works there), is said to be extensive.—It has a tolerably good quay, and the village is pleasantly situated, the sea flowing at the rear of the town, and the ships riding in full view of the inhabitants.

Dundrum.

This is another village on the coast of Downshire.—The principal feature of its history, and a bad one enough, is the dangerous bay to which it gives its name, and which heathen poets would say, belongs to Pluto's dominions.—Many vessels have been lost here, and many valuable lives have perished!—We sincerely wish that parlia-

ment could enter into a conflict with Pluto for this bay, and out-general him; but whether it would be possible, when his mighty jaws are extended to receive his prey, to fill them up with lime and stone, and thus wedge them in for ever; is a question for the consideration of our statesmen, who are well experienced in the art of **FOR-TIFICATION**.—Should they happen, however, to be puzzled by an enterprise, in which great **PURITY** should be united with great **POWER**, we would then recommend them to transfer the *job* to an Irish grand jury, who will distribute their *stones* and other implements of artillery with amazing skill; although we can by no means pledge ourselves that they would fight their way very far into the bay!—And here a second question arises, which must be referred to the consideration of the legislature; namely, whether the war with Pluto would be likely to terminate without a waste of the public treasure, since the resources of the god lie very deep, and ours lie much upon the *surface*; a problem, which some public works "*begun*" (but not "*continued and ended*") may assist to solve, and which also may be referred, for farther consideration, to the *highly favoured* agents of parliamentary liberality to this country.

Saint Patrick, in a voyage from Dublin to Down, is said to have landed at this bay; but arriving safe himself, he does not appear to have given himself much trouble about what should follow, or to have made war at all upon this part of Pluto's dominion.—Whether Pluto dreaded his

power, or he Pluto's, remains a secret; but it is no secret that, after Saint Patrick landed, they remained *in statu quo*; St. Patrick converting men, and the bay swallowing them up!—Whether they looked shy upon each other, and so made a child's bargain (let me alone and I will let you alone) the historian of this eminent saint has not told us; and posterity are left to guess the cause, why the man, by whose command the land was divested of its venomous creatures, and the climate purified, should have exercised no jurisdiction over the waters. But, we beg pardon—some of his historians have, we believe, left it upon record, that, on some pressing occasion, the saint did indeed pass from one country to another, over the wide ocean, in *two steps*!—This was exercising dominion over the waters with a witness; but, as these *mighty strides* are quite common in the life of that great man, one note of admiration on this incident is quite sufficient!—Nevertheless, our faith in his existence and mission is sincere.

Killileagh.

This village stands on the western shore of Strangford lough, and, as a picturesque object on that shore, is contemplated with interest by the inhabitants of Portaferry, and by the numerous persons boating on the lough.—It does a little business in the coal trade; and to the other parts of its history may be added, that it is the occasional residence of that once celebrated Irishman, Hamilton Rowan.—It is also said to have given

birth to that celebrated naturalist and physician, Sir Hans Sloane, on the 16th of April, 1660.

Road from Strangford to Downpatrick.

Proceeding from Castleward, the seat of the Hon. Miss Ward, (which comes next in the order of our tour), and from other seats in the region of the lough, to enter upon the Downpatrick road, you will find the country, as you approach the town of this name, rough and hilly, and by no means as highly embellished, or the cottages and peasantry as interesting and attractive, as that which you had previously traversed on the shores of Strangford.—On this road is situated the castle of Walsherstown, the property of a Mr. Anderson.—It stands within three miles of Strangford, and four of Downpatrick, which latter is the post town to it.

Castleward.

Castleward, the seat of the Hon. Miss Ward, (in trust, we believe, for her brother Lord Bangor, who is in a state of *simplicity*,) comprehends a very fine, though not a very *luminous* edifice, on a demesne of 6 or 700 acres, grandly elevated above Strangford lough, and commanding, over its beautiful crystal expanse, a rich and picturesque view of the town and demesne of Portaferry.—The demesne of Castleward is walled in, beautifully planted, and includes a deer-park. It is also graced by a temple, tea house, and green house.

The dwelling house stands, as it ought, well elevated over its own improvements, and well maintaining its rank and dignity in the general scenery of the lough.—The colour of the stone, however, of which the exterior is composed, unfortunately deprives this fine edifice of its due proportion of effect in the distant view.—It is Bath stone, and looks very well when you stand within a few perches of the house; but is inexpressibly dull, when viewed from the Portaferry shore.—We would therefore recommend the house to be whitewashed; convinced that, as a landscape object, its influence would be much greater on the scene; but this is a subject to be determined by the taste of the queen of this demesne, to whose better judgment we shall bow, after having discharged our duty to our country, by observing, that we prefer the Newtonardes stone, on Lord Londonderry's estate, to any Bath stone whatever; that it is well known, this latter will consume by fire; that the produce of our own country should always be preferred to any other; and that, for the production of the picturesque, the white of lime is a better combination with the verdure of nature, and with the crystal brightness of lakes and rivers, than any drab coloured stone whatever, and will shed an infinitely more brilliant reflection on a landscape.

This seat stands within one mile of Strangford, which is the post town to it.

Bangor.

This pretty village stands on the northern coast of Downshire, five miles south of Donaghadee, and ten north west of Belfast. It is a post town, and is said to have been the seat of an ancient monastery.

It has a venerable looking church, with a lofty spire, which is an ornament to the village, and two cotton factories, which give employment to a certain number of the labouring poor.—It also derives a ray of architectural and plantation beauty, from the seat of Colonel Ward, in its immediate neighbourhood.—The town stands on the southern shore of the bay of Belfast, and is an interesting feature of the country, as you drive from Belfast to Donaghadee.—It is situated in the manor of Bangor, which contains the great bog of Cotton and Granshaw, comprizing 1000 acres, which the owners began to reclaim and improve in 1743.—Bangor is situated 90 miles north of Dublin.

Rathgeale.

Rathgeale, the seat and part of an extensive fee farm of James Clealand, Esq. comprehends a neat modern mansion house, and about 50 Conyngham acres of demesne.—The soil is stiff and cold, retentive of water, and, from its flexibility, difficult of cultivation.—It produces, however, tolerable crops of hay; and, when well cultivated, is also moderately productive of grain crops.—The pro-

spect from this seat, over the bay of Belfast to the elevated lands beyond it, as also to the church and village of Bangor, in its immediate vicinity, are highly interesting.—This latter portion of the view, derives considerable effect from a plantation on this estate, over which the spire of the church is seen lifting its spheric cone with great beauty.—The light house, on one of the Copeland Isles, is comprehensible in a view from this seat.

Rathgeale stands near the mail coach road, which opens a communication between Belfast and Donaghadee, through Newtonardes and Bangor, 91 miles north of Dublin, nine north east of Belfast, and one mile from Bangor, which is the post town to it.

Ballow.

Ballow the seat and part of the extensive fee farm of William Steele Nicholson, Esq. comprehends a good farm lodge, with a certain proportion of demesne or farm lands.—The soil is similar to that of Rathgeale, in its immediate vicinity, but, in point of prospect, this seat, from its low position, enjoys but few of those land and water views, which distinguish some of the more splendid and better elevated seats in this region of country.—Bangor is the post town to Ballow, and its distance from Belfast and Dublin may be ascertained by a reference to the record of Rathgeale.

Mount Stewart.

This splendid seat of the Marquis of Londonderry stands on a transcendantly beautiful plain, which is washed by the undulating waters of the lough of Strangford, to whose shores the Mourne mountains form majestic life-guards, and on which are exhibited some of the finest scenes in the topography of Ulster.—In your approach to the house, through one of the most beautiful and extensive lawns in this province, you have the immeasurable surface of the lough, on your right hand; nor does a single shrub dare to intrude its pigmy trunk between you and the unrivalled beauties of the glassy scene, and of those little islands which Neptune has here judiciously placed as the ornaments of this province of his dominion, and as trophies of his victory over the neighbouring lands.—On the left, in your passage through this magnificent land and water scene, the lawn presents itself to your view enclosed by a planted elevation.—In your progress, you perceive at a distance a temple dedicated to Neptune, lifting its lofty spire above the land and water, as the token of his dominion over both elements, conformable to the usual practice of the gods, in relation to all conquered regions (and from which the ancient inclusion of France in the royal insignia of Britain may possibly have been borrowed).—Thus enriched and beautified by the usual emblems of divinity, you pass through a scene which, were it not for the poor perishable mortality of those who reside

here, would remind us of the Elysian Fields, to which the ancients supposed the souls of the virtuous were wafted after death; fields, which are always green, and enriched with never fading bowers and never failing streams; where pleasures are innocent and refined, and where happiness has no mixture of alloy; where the air is wholesome, serene, and temperate, and where the birds continually warble in the groves; where the inhabitants are blessed with another sun, and other stars; and in a word, where their felicity is coeval with the immortality of the gods and virtue, and the perfection of the scene secured by its eternal duration!

The mansion-house of Mount Stewart, stands at a due distance from the grand entrance, on the margin of a road, that shall be noticed at the conclusion of this memoir, and which sweeps by the lawn with incomparable beauty.—It is an edifice, combining some measure of its ancient character, with much modern improvement.—It partakes more of the Grecian than of the Roman architecture, (although not modelled exactly upon either plan,) and of that style the Grecian portico of Mount Stewart house is a fine specimen.—The apartments appeared to be numerous and splendid; but of the few we saw the library most attracted our attention; and perhaps to this predilection, a volume of the house of Camden (which, for the chaste elegance of its subject, and the purity of its style, exceeded all the others in that room) might have materially contri-

buted.—Among the paintings which enriched those apartments, we noticed a portrait, at full length, of Lord Castlereagh (the late Lord Londonderry) drawn from life, which is said to be a perfect likeness; but as we have not had the honour of seeing this eminent statesman, with our own eyes, we can only speak of the painter's merit from report.—The youthful visage of this figure, however, surprised us not a little; as it would pass very well for any age from 24 to 30; and when we saw it in 1817, his lordship had been something longer in the world.

This introduction of Lord Castlereagh's name, brings to our recollection an incident in his lordship's history, too remarkable to be passed over, and related to us, by an authority well acquainted with all the incidents of the scene.—Had it been related of a less remarkable personage, or from a less authentic source, we might have spared our readers this digression; but conceiving that every incident in a life so eminent, will be read with eagerness, we shall give it to the reader, as we received it in that country, without pledging ourselves to the accuracy of a report which we copy from memory, and to which we ourselves were not eye witnesses.

When Lord Castlereagh was about 14 years old, and under the tuition of a clergyman in Downshire, with whom his father had placed him to be prepared for entrance into the University, his lordship accompanied by his tutor, his tutor's son, (a lad of nearly his own age,) and a junior tutor,

who assisted in his education, came to Mount Stewart, to spend the summer vacation.

One fine morning, during this gala season, Castlereagh and his young companion resolved to enjoy the pleasures of a voyage on the lough, and without apprizing any one of their departure (save that Lord Londonderry knew his son intended to go on a fishing expedition the first fair opportunity) they set off at an early hour in the morning, and taking possession of a pleasure boat, which they found on the beach, pushed their vessel from the shore; and were highly delighted with the amusement of navigating it, when a thunder storm arrested them in their course, sunk their boat, plunged them into the waves, and, for nearly an hour, they had to contend with the embattled hosts of Æolus, to whose fury, Neptune (to whom we have dedicated a temple on the shore) refusing to become a party, the lives of the young mariners were saved; for which mercy (although many will not receive this saying) they were indebted to the following providential circumstances.

Lord Camden, father to the present Marchioness of Londonderry, (and who sacrificed an income of nearly £40,000 a year to the distresses of his country,) was then on a visit at Mount Stewart, and happened to be the first person who noticed the absence of the young renegados from the breakfast table.—Lord Londonderry understanding that the lads intended to go a fishing, and supposing that they had brought proper persons

with them to navigate the boat, felt no uneasiness at their absence; and their voyage, after furnishing the company with a laugh, during the breakfast hour, was no farther noticed.—The care of the young mariners, happened however to be in better hands; for, after breakfast, the junior tutor of Lord Castlereagh (without adverting to the boating expedition) felt a desire to visit the temple, which he had not seen in a finished state; and soliciting his superior to accompany him, they set out for the temple, which happens to stand on the confines of Neptune's dominions, as we have noticed, and arrived there before Æolus had made his descent upon the lough.—When the fury of the god had a little subsided, the younger tutor, who had previously obtained a glimpse of the young mariners from the temple, began to look out for them on the water, but in vain; the boat had disappeared; the tutors became alarmed, and the younger of the two, rushing with rapidity towards the shore, waded to a little island, where a boat was anchored, and obtaining help to drag the boat into the water, proceeded to search for the unfortunates, who were at length discovered; Lord Castlereagh swimming, and his companion floating on the water.—How the latter, who it is said never swam before, maintained himself in this floating posture, is truly astonishing, but such is represented to be the fact.—The boat of salvation is said to have come first in contact with Lord Castlereagh, to whom the magnanimity of directing the mariners (although his own life was

in danger) to proceed first to the salvation of his companion, is attributed; and, when this duty was performed, the boat returned and completed its mission, by rescuing this future star of the British empire, from the grasp of Æolus, who was forced to surrender him to Minerva, who had occasion for his services in the British cabinet.*—

* Soon after this work was committed to the press, the eminent subject of this juvenile memoir (after having ascended, in his subsequent career, to posts of the first authority in the state, and to the loftiest eminence in the diplomatic history of Europe) suddenly disappeared!—How and in what manner is known to England and to the world.

After having evidenced his abilities in early life, by putting down the rebellion of his country—by accomplishing the legislative union of that country with England—and subsequently, by preserving England from the menaces of Revolutionary France—chaining the conqueror of Europe to a rock—and restoring the Bourbons to their ancient throne.—After accomplishing all this by the energy of his character and the wisdom of his counsels—this extraordinary man dies by his own hand!—and dies, under a tormenting apprehension, that a *system of bribery and espionage* had found its way to his *own house*.—*It* had entered into his chamber, and had been planted by *treachery* even in the bosom of his wife!—Gracious Heavens! what a solemn admonition to a moral agent, entrusted, *for a moment*, with the dangerous power of dispensing happiness or misery—vice or virtue—equity or oppression to a nation, does this painful incident afford.—What a sovereign antidote to ambition, is such an end.—What an awful notion of human weakness, or righteous retribution, does it plant within our bosoms.—How poor and pitiful, a picture does it give us of the loftiest pinnacle in the social structure, when placed in competition with the lowly violet in the valley; that derives its beauty and its nourishment from the dew,

With the various political commentaries that this event may call forth, either in public or private, we have nothing to do in this place.—Our sentiments on political subjects, shall be expressed elsewhere, and expressed with unshaken firmness—but we do not make this book a vehicle of angry contention; nor a cause of needless offence to any party.—Men of equal virtue and public spirit, may have different views of the measures which ought to be adopted for the government of this great empire; and without pledging ourselves to go the whole length with any of the angry controvertists of this day, we hope to prove equally faithful to our views of truth, although a consciousness of

of heaven, and drops in PEACE upon the bosom of its mother earth.—Farther.—What a picture does this fact of history give us, of the state of his Lordship's mind, and of the opinion which he had formed of the capabilities of the human heart, in a country that had so long enjoyed the benefit of his own example; since in the circle of a Christian court, the distracting apprehension of a deep laid conspiracy against his life, could haunt the mind of the noble Marquis, until it hurried him on to the execution of the fatal deed?

Humbling is the view which this heart-rending scene presents of the loftiest human heights—but serviceable, though simple, the moral which it conveys to statesmen—namely—that heaven can grasp the man whom earth cannot—and that JUSTICE and GRACITY, as in private, so in PUBLIC life, are the only principles of action that can support the mind in the prospect of nature's dissolution—that can enable it to quit this stage in peace; and open to the eye of faith, the prospect of a good reception in the next scene of action—where virtue, and not power, will be crowned with the applause of angels, and will secure to its possessor unfading honors!

our great fallibility, may sometimes lead us to state those views with moderation.

The prospect from Mount Stewart demesne, over the lough and Newtonardes, to the Scrabo mountain, is incomparably fine; that to the Mourne mountains not less so.—The influence of the temple on this scene has been already noticed.—The plantation beauties of this seat it would be tedious to describe; and the lough of Strangford forms so magnificent a feature in the scenery of this place, that we despaired of touching the reader's imagination with a notion of the landscape, without enlisting poetry, for a moment, in our service, to assist the poverty of a mere prose description.

Mount Stewart embraces nearly 500 Conyngham acres of a fine undulating demesne, with the soil of which we are unacquainted, having received no information.—It stands on a road that sweeps along the margin of the lough of Strangford, and opens a communication between Newtonardes, a town on the Londonderry estate, and Portaferry, a town already noticed in these memoirs.—From the former of these, which is its post town, it is distant three miles, and 92 north of Dublin.

N. B. It is an act of justice to the character of the late Lord Londonderry (father to the subject of the preceding note) to observe, that he resided almost constantly on his own estate, where he spent a princely fortune; and, from all that we could learn, no man was ever more beloved by his tenantry and neighbours.

Newtonardes glebe.

This glebe, the seat of the Rev. Mark Cassidy, incumbent of the parish in 1817, (and a gentleman to whose exertions, we understand, the interests of education in that parish are much indebted,) comprehends a neat glebe-house, and 20 acres of glebe lands, very awkwardly situated at a distance of two English miles from the minister's residence.

The glebe-house stands in the immediate vicinity of Newtonardes, and near it, a new church was then erecting, which, if now finished, is, no doubt, an appendage of great beauty to the town.—In the vicinity of the glebe-house, there is a very fine school-house for the education of the poor of both sexes, erected by a donation of £600 from Lady Castlereagh, and a similar donation from the trustees of Erasmus Smith. This handsome edifice (which is the finest Lancasterian Lyceum that we have seen in the rural districts of Ireland) accommodates 100 children of each sex, and 200 were said to be in a course of education there, when we visited that institution in the autumn of 1817.

Quarries.

The Newtonardes quarries, constitute a feature in the natural history of this property, of considerable importance.—One of these quarries, which is extensively worked by a Mr. Campbell, we visited.—It produces a sand or free stone, much finer and of closer texture than the generality of free stone.—The new church, and, we

believe, the school house and market house of Newtonardes, have been built with the produce of these quarries.—The market house is composed of cut stone, which conspires with its cupola and town clock, to give the village of Newtonardes, a rather elegant appearance.—Mr. Campbell, the useful citizen just noticed, also trades in Italian marble, of which he had laid in a valuable cargo a little previous to our visitation of his quarries.—Newtonardes is, we believe, a market, post, and fair town, and appears to be tolerably well circumstanced for trade.

• *Donlady.*

Donlady, the seat of Mrs. Macilroth, mother of the Countess of Annesley, comprehends an edifice of plain aspect, and 62 Conyngham acres of demesne.—It is enriched by some valuable timber.—This seat stands near the mail coach road, between Belfast and Donaghadee, at the distance of five miles from the former, which is its post town, and 86 miles north of Dublin.

Dunover.

Is the seat and part of the extensive property (subject to a small chief rent) of Alexander Allen, Esq.—The demesne comprizes about 80 acres embellished with plantations.—The soil of those lands, and of this part of the coast of Down, is a stiff clay, best adapted to the growth of barley, oats and potatoes.—It is manured, as lands on the coast usually are, chiefly with sea-weed; but, whatever mode of culture they may adopt, the

produce of this soil will fall far short of that, which is denominated good tillage ground in the other provinces, its native character being vastly inferior.

There is an artificial fort at the rear of the dwelling house, which commands an extensive prospect, and, from the lawn, there are one or two pleasing sea views.

This seat stands on a county road, which opens a communication between Newtonardes and Ballywalter, (a pretty village in this county,) six miles from the former, which is its post town, and 95 miles north of Dublin.

Annahilt.

This is the name of a parish, with a handsome church and glebe house, erected by the Rev. John Dubourdieu, (author of the statistical surveys of Down and Antrim,) who was the first resident rector.—Annahilt was, formerly, part of the corps of the precentorship of Dromore, from which it was separated by an act of council, with the consent of the Bishop and incumbent, by the advice of the first Marquis of Downshire.

The glebe house is a very comfortable edifice, and is accommodated with an excellent garden, and 55 acres of glebe land, beautifully planted.—On a pleasing elevation beyond the lawn, and nearly opposite to the dwelling house, stands the parish church; an edifice that raises its tower above the surrounding plantations, with great

beauty, and contributes, in no small degree, to the picturesque of the Annahilt home view.

The burying ground, attached to the church, is of great antiquity, and the fort on which it stands is curious, being the innermost of four enclosures, the whole occupying at least nine acres, and sloping towards the east in a regular glacis.—Here Sir Phelim O'Neill retreated, when he was repulsed at Lisburn, by Sir John Rawdon, on the 28th November, 1641.

A view of the population of this parish, from a census taken in 1813, may give some idea of the vast preponderance which the Protestant religion has obtained in this county; and an extract from the same excellent authority, will also give the reader a tolerably clear idea of its moral character.—We wish it were in our power to give the same merer views of those districts of Munster and Connaught, which are exclusively Catholic.—The population of Annahilt, at the period just noticed, consisted of 514 families; 2678 members of these families being Protestants, and 20 only Catholics.—The greater part of this population is descended from Scotch emigrants, who settled here in the reign of James I.

They are represented, by their parish minister, (a very good judge) to be a decent, industrious, well disposed, and orderly people.—For this character the rector can vouch, after a residence of nearly 40 years among them.—They live comfortably and sociably among each other; sometimes, indeed, they come home from the neigh-

bouring markets, where they dispose of their linen cloth and purchase necessities, a little elevated by a cheerful glass with their friends; but, drunkenness and parish fights, to a *scandalous excess*, are not the order of the day in this part of Ulster, as is too much the case among our poor Catholic countrymen, in the other provinces of Ireland; a remark which we by no means make in the spirit of reproach, and, in reality, for no other purpose than to turn the attention of their civil and ecclesiastical governors to the means which should be adopted for a correction of those abuses, (of which means, we consider, a peasantry improvement society and a good national police, to be by no means the least efficient.)—The parish of Annahilt has an excellent Lancasterian school, endowed by the late Marquis of Downshire, and a Mr. Jameson, formerly one of its respectable inhabitants.—There is a good dwelling house, with three acres of land, and a salary of £40 per ann. for the head master, attached to this institution; £20 per ann. for his assistant; and two excellent school rooms, for the instruction of the male and female population.—Mrs. Dubourdieu (now no more) and other respectable inhabitants, established Sunday schools here, for the instruction of those children who could not attend on week days; so that the parish is well provided with moral and literary instruction for the poor.

Tythes were compounded for in this parish, when Mr. Dubourdieu was the incumbent—he never received more than 1s. 6d. per acre, on a

whole farm.—There is something like equity in this; for surely nothing can be more horrible than the idea of heavily taxing a poor labourer, who with great difficulty, and subject to a great rent, raises an acre or two of corn and potatoes; for the payment of this rent, and for the subsistence of his family.—To the necessity of thus taxing him, however, we presume the minister is *forced*, by a determination of the lords *spiritual* to resist a commutation of tithes!—These sensible men finding their nests well feathered, as things stand; leave their curates and people to their own good fortune; or, to the *mercy of heaven*, which these holy men have always upon their finger-ends, and which they take good care shall *close fast* upon so good a *subject*.—Indeed the tenacity with which they hold this mercy is surprising; considering the *sacred nature* of their profession; more particularly, when a commutation of tithes happens to be started, on a bishop's field day, in the House of Lords; for then, as if by some peculiar bias in the *locum tenens* of a bishop, the hand of every prelate in the house, by a simultaneous movement, closes, like a lobster's claw, upon the pig of Moses; and neither the lord temporal, who first smoked the beast, nor the Commons of England, who seem to think that his tail wants pruning, can UNEARTH the JEWISH game (so deeply has human policy entrenched it); and in this *earthy* state he will no doubt continue, until his end approaches; an event, from the evident unsoundness of his constitution, and from the

signs of the times, that cannot be many generations off.

In the interim, however, the minister passing by the lordly demesnes of the lords spiritual and temporal, and the copious tracts of the wealthy grazier, must lay his hand upon the poor labourer's crop for his portion of subsistence (although his soul may loathe the tax), nor dare he trouble his lordship, the bishop (see 1st Peter v. 2, 3—another text for their lordships' consideration) with his scruples on such a subject, as the church would be in danger if tithes were commuted; and the Bishop, being engaged in preparing a defence of *Christianity* for the press, with a learned treatise on the attributes of God, has neither time nor inclination to attend to the scruples of his clergy, nor to the complaints of *reptiles*, who have so slight a claim upon his lordship's attention in this world, that, if he should happen to meet them in the next, their presence might disturb his peace with a recollection of the tithe laws.

Annahilt, the *first* subject of this memoir, (of the *second* we are as *sick* as any bishop,) is situated in the county of Down, within three miles of Lisburn, in that of Antrim, which is the post town to it.

Beside the glebe house of Annahilt, which we have just noticed, as an interesting feature of improvement, this parish is also considerably indebted to the Mussenden and Cowan families, for its advancement in building, planting, and other improvements.—Ballylinter, the seat of Mr. Andrew Cowan, we have seen, and Larchfield,

that of Mr. Mussenden, who resides upon his own estate, is represented to be a most respectable feature of improvement, the proprietor having planted much, and encouraged a similar spirit in his tenantry. It is however an act of justice, not only to this parish, but to most part of the district of Downshire, to observe, that a spirit of improvement is not confined to the gentry, but pervades this district generally; as any person will perceive who visits the farming and manufacturing cottages; and observes the attention which is paid to domestic cleanliness and comfort, and to planting and ditching; the sure evidences of a country's advancement in civilization.

We have now given a tolerably accurate detail of those views which we had opportunities of taking in our passage through Downshire; a county, both in its commerce and natural history, which forms a most important feature of the Ulster district.—As our residence, however, in this county, was entirely too short to enable us to give the English and Irish public an accurate report of its natural history, from our own personal research, we shall endeavour to supply this defect, by copying from authentic historians such articles of its history and antiquities, as, being placed in connection with our own views, may probably render this description of the country, one of the most full and satisfactory that has yet been published; and should those inhabitants of Downshire, who are acquainted with the observations of other writers upon their district, object

to a republication of them in this work, such gentlemen will allow us to observe, that the latter has not been written for the information of a single county in Ireland, but for that of the empire at large; that it will obtain access to places and persons, where Irish histories and surveys never found their way; and that, when it shall come to their turn to look into our history of districts, with which they are not quite so well acquainted as with their own, they will have no cause to object, that the writer had not the vanity to depend upon his own transitory researches, for acceptance with the public, but upon that fullness of information, which the combined intelligence of a kingdom can alone produce.

CHAPTER III.

Minerals—Fossils—Mineral Waters—Rivers—Estates, Tenures, Rental—Downshire Farms and Farmers—Tithes—Meadows, Gardens, and Orchards—Timber, Plantations, and Woodlands—Wastes and Bogs—Paring, Burning, and Draining—Manures, Food, and Fuel—Roads—Agricultural Society, County Survey—Antiquities of Downshire—Directory to the Seats of Downshire, with their respective Post Towns, Alphabetically arranged.

Minerals.

COPPER ore has been found in several parts of this county.—In the mountains near Rosstrevor, about five miles to the north-east, in the bed of a rivulet, copper ore was picked up many years ago, as mentioned in the history of the county of Down; but no further steps were taken than to ascertain that it was so, by sending it to be tried in Dublin.—It has likewise been found in the rocks near Portaferry, and also in the lead mine at Clonliff, between Newtonardes and Bangor.]

Lead.

At Killough, near the quay, specimens of rich lead ore have been found, interspersed among the rocks: it is very heavy and very bright; but as it lies within half tide, it cannot be wrought but

with great disadvantage.—From trials made many years ago, this ore appears to be of that sort which yields half its weight in good metal.—Lead has also been found on the Blundel estate, within half a mile of Dundrum, amongst the rocky grounds, a little under the surface.—This mine was formerly worked, and given up after a considerable sum was spent on it.—Several veins have been discovered on different parts of this estate, which are supposed to be branches spreading from a main body, which, if found, might well repay the trouble and expense of searching for it.—This ore is said to have been rich, yielding nearly one half its weight.—It is also said that several veins of lead ore have been found near Portaferry.—The lead mine in the mountain, or rather hill, of Clonliff, between Newtonardes and Bangor, seems to have had the fairest trial of any mine in this county; many tons of lead were raised from it some 20 years since, and a considerable sum expended by the proprietors and a company, who undertook it; but, after various attempts, it was abandoned.—A vein of the same kind of ore was found in the demesne of Sir James Blackwood, at Ballyleedy; and two veins of lead were discovered on Lady Roden's estate, not far from Bryansford, which promised well.—No iron mines have been found, but ochreous earths abound in many places, and every attempt to find coals has so far comparatively failed.

Fossils.

There are several quarries of remarkably fine freestone in this county: the principal are those of Scraba, near Newtown, and that of Kilwarlin, to the south of the road from Hillsborough to Moira.—That of Scraba is a very fine grained and clear coloured stone; and the deeper it is sunk, the better the quality of the stone.—The quarry of Kilwarlin produces flags of a very great length and breadth, of different colours, from the clear stone colour to a brownish red: the former are very superior in beauty and hardness.—A stone of uncommon dimensions, taken from it, is to be seen as a step to the communion-table of the church of Hillsborough: it is 21 feet in length, and two in breadth.

Slates are raised in the following places: from Bangor to Ballywalter, of a great size and excellent metal, rather heavy, but which stand the weather very well; also in the parish of Doonah, not far from Hillsborough; at Annahilt, and near Ballinahinch.—These quarries all produce slates, when sunk to a proper depth; and, if they do not equal those imported from Wales, in lightness and colour, exceed them very much in hardness and durability.—Besides those above mentioned, there are numerous quarries of this useful material in other parts of the county, which require nothing more than to be worked with skill and honesty, to supply the wants of the circumjacent country in that necessary article; but

when, from want of skill, the blocks are not raised of a proper size, and the slates, from want of honesty, are broken to increase the number, we need not be surprised that these quarries do not succeed.

Limestone is not very general: very large blocks of a yellow kind, are in great abundance near Cultra, on the shore of Carrickfergus bay; but the great, and probably inexhaustible, magazine of this most useful fossil is found in the vicinity of Moira.—This seems to be a continuation of that body, which, with little interruption, is to be met with along the coast, from Macgilligan in the county of Derry, following the headlands of the county of Antrim, to that range of mountains which run north of Lisburn, and thence turning towards the west, is lost, after traversing the fertile grounds of Magheragall and Soldiers-town, in the gently sloping hills, which overhang the river Lagan, between Moira and Magheralin. The quarries in that neighbourhood are very near the surface: they consist of horizontal strata, intermixed with flints, in some places stratified, in others in detached pieces of various forms and sizes. It is common to see three of these large flints, like rollers, a yard long, and 12 inches each in diameter,* stand perpendicularly over one another, and joined by a narrow neck of limestone funnel-shaped, as if, in a liquid state, they had been poured into a cavity made to receive

* Several are in the yard of the Dublin Society.

them.—Shells of different kinds are found in this stone; and Mr. Dubourdien mentions his having seen part of a rib-bone, exactly resembling the rib of a cow, taken out of a block of this white lime-stone, which was as hard as marble!—The marine exuvise found in hills so many miles distant from the sea, and so many feet above its surface, must be a very interesting subject for those who, upon hostile principles, endeavour to account for the various changes this globe has undergone.

Granite is to be met with in this county in detached masses, and of various colours and fineness; but, as a great body, it is confined to the barony of Mourne, the lordship of Newry, part of Upper Iveagh, and a very small portion of the barony of Kinalarty.—As the granite country is approached from the different points of the compass, a few stones of this species are perceived in the fields and ditches: by degrees these grow more frequent, and the common slaty stone of the adjacent country decreases, until at length they are nearly lost; and almost every stone on the surface is granite, and every rock is of the same. The granite country begins on the eastern coast, about a mile beyond the village of Dundrum; from thence it continues, in an oblique line north-west, to the mountain of Slieve Croob, where, in the eastern branch of the river Lagan, it is intermixed with the slaty rock, and also with a beautiful and fine-grained reddish grit, that gives a very smooth surface when applied to a grinding

stone, and lies in separate blocks of many tons weight: from hence it turns to the west, along the top of Slieve-na-boly, where it takes its course to the south-west, and afterwards through the parishes of Drumgoolan and Drumballyroney to the lordship of Newry, which it also traverses, and at length joins the granite hills of the county of Louth.—Notwithstanding granite is the predominant stone in the district just noticed, it does not, however, entirely exclude the schist, or slate, which is often seen in contact with it.

From these mountains (Slieve Croob and Slieve-na-boly) flow the two principal rivers of the county, the Bann and the Lagan, besides the Newry river and various smaller streams.—Quarries of this stone are opened in many places, particularly in the neighbourhood of Newry, Rathfryland, and in different parts along the face of the mountains.—This county likewise abounds with many other kinds of fossils, clays of different fineness, marl, lime-stone, gravel, &c.—Upon the whole, the county of Down, from the nature of its rocks, and from the minerals already found, seems to deserve the attention of an able mineralogist; and from the interest which government must have in an accurate discovery of the resources of this island, it is to be hoped that an accurate mineralogical map of the whole kingdom will yet be executed.

Mineral Waters.

The mineral waters of this county are of two kinds, chalybeate and sulphur—the chalybeate are numerous: those which are known amount to eight; namely, 1. Ardmillan, on the lough of Strangford, in the parish of Tullynakill; 2. Killaghee, three miles west of Donaghadee; 3. Granshaw—these two are both in the barony of Ardes; 4. Kirkdonnell, about three miles north west of Newtown; 5. Magheralin; 6. Dromore; 7. Newry; and, 8. at Tierkelly, two miles from Rathfryland. These waters differ from each other, chiefly in the different degrees of the strength of the mineral impregnation.—They are all, except Newry, strong chalybeates, as appears from their ferruginous taste, the purple colour they strike with galls and sumach, the blue tincture they exhibit with logwood, and the ochreous contents they yield by evaporation.—The following account of experiments made on several of them, in 1743, is taken from the history of the county of Down.

Newry Spa was examined the 4th of May, on the spot, at one in the afternoon; and it struck a delicate purple with galls, and a deep violet, or blue, with logwood; hence it is a chalybeate, though of the weaker class; however, it is considerable enough to deserve notice, for it deposits an ochre, which, upon calcination, turns red, and is attracted by the loadstone; and moreover it yields by evaporation a greater proportion of contents than the famous Tunbridge wells.—For,

as that yielded two grains and a quarter from a quart, this yielded almost three grains from the same quantity.

Dromore Spa stood (for by cutting a drain it has disappeared) in the town of Dromore by the river side, with an exposure to the south; but being covered with an arch and trees, the sun had no power over it.—Its taste was strongly ferruginous, and it struck a very deep purple with galls, and a light blue with logwood; a light purple with brandy and rectified spirits of wine; all evidences of an impregnation with iron, and it appeared to have few other contents; for it made a lather with soap, and did not curdle milk boiled with it; and, by the hydrometer, it appeared to be of the same specific gravity with the water of the neighbouring river.—Its operation was purgative, and it was often drank with success in the gravel.

Granshaw is one of the richest chalybeates in the county, as appeared by an examination made May 20th, 1743, at six o'clock in the evening (a time of day the least advantageous for these trials), when it struck a deep purple with galls, not far different from ink: it is covered with a thick scum, white and yellow, and by evaporation yields five grains of ochreous sediment from a quart.—This, Mr. Dubourdieu says, is a greater quantity than the celebrated Astrope water yielded, and more than double what Tunbridge water affords from the same quantity; and adds: it retains its qualities after being

kept a fortnight, and has been prescribed successfully, as it sits lightly on the stomach, passes off quickly, and has been found serviceable in the gravel.

Killaghee water lies about three miles almost north of the former; the taste and scum appeared to be the same as that at Granshaw: it struck a deep purple with galls, but not so quick, nor so much tending to black, as the other.—Upon trial these waters have been found to bear carriage to Dublin; and, after having been kept a month, to retain all their distinctive qualities, their astringent and ferruginous taste, and their striking the same colours with galls and logwood; sparkling in the glass, and not the least fetid.—This experiment proves that our indigenous waters might be transported to Dublin, and to other places, and drank there to advantage, provided the same care was taken in bottling, corking, and rosining on the spot, as was taken in the two cases above mentioned.

Tierkelly water is also a very strong chalybeate, as appears from its thick blue scum, from its striking a claret colour with galls, and a durable blue with log-wood; whilst it appears by these trials to be well saturated with iron, it is otherwise exceedingly light, and free from any considerable mixture of heterogeneous matter.—This water does not appear to have been much used; but, from several casual trials, has been found effectual for the scurvy, both internally and externally used.—Besides the chalybeate waters

this county possesses, there is another kind much more rare, and more worthy of attention, as it is in many cases attended with great virtues; this is the sulphureo-chalybeate water of Ballynahinch; this water rises about two miles from the town, towards the north-west, on the skirts of Slieve Croob mountain.—It is very clear, cold, and of a very disagreeable taste and smell, like the sulphureous water of Aix-la-Chapelle.—The quantity taken is from three pints to three quarts; it sometimes vomits, and sometimes purges, but these effects are accidental, as its chief operation is by urine.—Its virtues resemble those of other sulphureous waters, particularly in its efficacy in scorbutic disorders; it is applied outwardly as well as taken inwardly, great benefit often arising from bathing in it.—The impregnating principles of this water will appear by the following experiment made on the spot, and in Dublin, above sixty miles distance; after being taken up eight days.—A silver sixpence being immersed in it for the space of twelve minutes at the fountain head, came out partly of a leaden, and partly of a copper, colour.—That which was transmitted to Dublin became of a dusky brown and yellowish colour, being hurt by carriage and hot weather; but it still retained its sulphureous smell, and heightened the colour of gold and of copper.—As most of our sulphureous waters bear carriage, if they were carefully bottled and corked, and brought cool, they might, no doubt, be conveyed to any distance without diminution of their virtues.—

This water is also impregnated with iron, as it gives the purple colour with galls, and the blue with log-wood, so that there is a combination of both minerals in it.—Six grains of sediment, obtained by evaporating three and one half pints, yielded a brackish and bitter taste, made an ebullition with oil of vitrol and spirit of salt, sparkled much, stunk, and burned on a hot iron; and an infusion of it, in distilled water, exhibited the same appearances with oil of tartar, per deliquium, and milk, as the bitter purging salt does; so that, besides sulphur and iron, there is also some calcareous nitre, though not in quantity sufficient to make it a purging water.—Upon the whole then, to advance the credit of our domestic mineral waters seems an object worthy of attention, by shewing, that they possess all the essential ingredients of the foreign ones, that, mixed with certain substances, they excite the same appearances; and lastly, that the virtues of each are found to be much alike, and that, consequently, ours may, in most cases, be happily substituted in their room, thereby putting the benefits to be obtained from them within the reach of ten persons for one that is now enabled to enjoy them.—We may add to them an alum spring, in the townland of Clarn, to the west of Clough, on Mr. Forde's estate; but we have not heard or read, that the strength of this has been ascertained by actual experiment.

Rivers.

Besides the four principal rivers of this county, the Bann, the Lagan, Newry, and Ballynahinch rivers, few countries abound more in springs or running streams; for, exclusive of such brooks as have their sources on the sides of hills, there are many others, that issue from lakes, which are not only serviceable for domestic uses, and for all the purposes of husbandry, but are likewise easily adapted to machinery, and are, in general, from their nature, particularly favourable to the art of bleaching, in all its branches.—The rapid falls in the rivers of Ulster, makes them much less advantageous, when viewed in the light of waters fitted for navigation, than as powers capable of setting at work the machinery required in a manufacturing country.—In this line the river Bann stands in the foremost rank, whether we consider the length of its course, the quantity of its water, or the number of bleach-greens established on its banks.—The eastern and western sources of this river take their rise at a small distance from each other, in that part of the mountains of Mourne called the deer's meadow, and, after diverging from each other, join a little to the eastward of Rathfryland, where it becomes a large river, flows through M'Cay's bridge to Banbridge, thence north-north-west by Sea Patrick and Hall's Mill, to Gilford and Portadown, *where its grandeur overflows the country*; and after a course of nearly thirty miles, falls into lough

Neagh near the Bann-foot ferry, in the county of Armagh.—Near Portadown it is joined by the Newry canal, which unites the Bay of Carlingford with the above mentioned lough.

The river Lagan rises in two small streams; the eastern source springs from that part of the mountain of Slieve-Croob which lies in the barony of Kinalarty; the western from the mountain of Slieve-na-boly, in the barony of Upper Iveagh; they unite a little to the north-east of Waringsford, from thence it flows to the north-west through the town of Dromore to Gillhall, and, being there augmented by another rivulet from two loughs south of Dromore, passes in a north-westerly direction under the bridges of Donaghclony, Gihon and Magheralin, where it turns north-east, and rolls on till it arrives near Moira; flows next under Spencer's bridge, the Maze-bridge, passes through a small part of Lisburn, Drum-bridge, Shaw's-bridge, and, at length, under the bridge of Belfast, where it empties itself into the bay of Belfast, (alias Carrickfergus,) having run in the whole, after various windings, a course of nearly thirty miles from its source.

Newry river, or, as it is otherwise called, the water of Newry, promised, and for ages performed, as little as any stream in Ireland.—It is neither considerable from the length of its course, there being but a few miles from its source to its fall, nor from its size; and with respect to its body of water, it was only navigable in consequence of the tide flowing up, and, of

course, only so long, and so far, as it flowed.—It rises near Rathfryland towards the west, and in the barony of Upper Iveagh; taking first a south-western course, then tending to the north, runs under Crown-bridge and Sheep-bridge; it then turns nearly west, towards the valley which separates Down from Armagh, where it takes a sudden turn to the south, and soon after runs into Carlingford bay.

The canal has taken away those impediments, which were irremediable in the river of Newry, and, by joining this river to the Bann, has opened a communication with lough Neagh, by which vessels of fifty and sixty tons burthen pass through the heart of Ulster.—This affords a direct instance of what has so often been laid down upon the subject of canals, that, by a junction of loughs and rivers, through the interposition of judicious and well executed cuts, many parts of this kingdom may, at no immoderate expense, be rendered, in this respect, as commodious as any in the world: the beneficial consequents of this canal being seen, and considered, is a stronger elucidation of this matter than any words can afford.—Whilst on the subject of canals it may not be improper to mention, that the good effects of the canal from lough Neagh to Belfast, are, in a great measure, lost by the management of that part of it which runs from Lisburn to Belfast.—The original defect seems to have been from the idea of making the river Lagan navigable, which, having a fall of so many feet, and being a mountain river, and, of

course, subject to great floods, is the most unfit that can be imagined for the purposes of navigation, being a great part of the year rendered so, by the bursting of its banks, whose breaches cannot be repaired without draining a level, and interrupting the passage of boats; besides the expense incurred by continual repairs.—Had a canal been executed between the towns above mentioned, without any connexion with the river, and with the same skill as the part latterly finished, the benefits would have been great indeed, and the communication certain and speedy; but, as matters are situated at present, more time is consumed in the passage up the river Lagan, *when there is a passage*, than would be sufficient for the whole, on a well executed and level cut.—Leaving this navigation, therefore, in the unfinished state in which it was some years since, must be not only a public loss, but a loss to the proprietor; and it would be an undertaking worthy some person of weight and influence to reconcile, if possible, all interests; and finally to complete so useful a work—but to the bleaching interests of Ulster, every scheme for the improvement of this province must be rendered subservient.

Ballynahinch river rises from four different sources, each of which issues from a separate lake; these four branches united form a pretty considerable river, which taking a course east, south-east by Ballynahinch, Kilmore, and other places, falls into the south-west branch of Strangford lough.

There are many other streams of less note in Downshire, which it would be unnecessary to mention, but which, in their course, are productive of many advantages; turning, as they flow, mills of every denomination that are in use in this district of the country.

The number of small lakes, or loughs, is very great; they form one of the many natural beauties with which this part of Ulster is distinguished.—A few of them whose appearance has been improved, by planting the neighbouring lands, are very interesting features of this country; but, in general, they lie in remote places, and are totally destitute of wood, that beautiful accompaniment to water.

These lakes, in general, abound with fish—pike, trout, eels, perch and roach, of a considerable size are found in most of them; those which are deep produce the two first mentioned equally large and well flavoured.—These are treasures, however, for some future day, as there are not any means made use of to obtain a regular supply; eels, indeed, are sometimes entrapped (by means of boxes placed across the outlets of these lakes) on their migration to the sea, during the autumnal rains.

Estates, Tenures, Rental.

Notwithstanding there are some very large estates in this county, property is much divided, and has all the different gradations from the most opulent nobleman to the tenant in perpetuity, who farms his own freehold.—The management of

estates is very simple ; it consists in letting the different farms, receiving the rents, and in regulating the turf bogs.—This latter branch of management requires a considerable degree of attention to prevent waste, which now is a matter of serious consideration, as fuel, that essential to life and comfort, is likely to be scarce, and that at no very remote period—in many parts, it is already so difficult to be procured, that a whole day is consumed in going for, and returning with, one load of turf.—The consequence of failure in the article of turf bog, in a country so populous and so full of manufactures, it is hard to conjecture, and should certainly be a strong stimulus to exertion in landlords ; first to prevent depredations on so essential an ingredient to the comfort of their tenants ; and secondly, to make every trial to supply its deficiency with coals, if this county is so fortunate as to contain any quantity of that valuable mineral.

Tenures.

Most of the county of Down, except the bishop's lands, is freehold ; on several estates there are leases for ever, many of them of considerable value, others so low as forty or fifty pounds per annum ; these having been set in the middle, or in the beginning of the last century, are at a low rent, and when put up to sale, from coming within the reach of so many purchasers, bring a much greater proportional price than more extensive tracts.

Rental.

The rental of the county of Down is very considerable, not less, it is calculated, than twenty shillings the Irish acre allowing for the mountains and bogs, &c., which may be computed at 44,658 acres, over and above the cultivable land, which is estimated at 300,000, so that the rental of the county may probably be averaged at £300,000.—Lands in the neighbourhood of the large towns, such as Belfast and Newry, let beyond their value, merely as a matter of convenience to the opulent inhabitants; and good farms and seats, even some miles distance from those towns, usually bring a high rent, but these are not to be considered as a fair specimen of the rental of the county.

Size of Farms.

The farms of this county naturally divide themselves into two kinds; the first, such as farmers possess, and from which, without having recourse to any other branch of industry, they support their families; the second, such as are held by weavers and other tradesmen, and are not sufficient for their maintenance, without the intervention of some other occupation, unconnected with agriculture—the former, run from 20 to 40, 50, and in some instances, so far as 100 acres; the latter contain every distinction, from one to twenty acres; some of this last mentioned class may not be weavers themselves, but most of them employ looms.

The minute division of lands, which so much prevails in this county, is owing to various causes; many farms have been brought to this situation by the holders of them portioning each child with a certain share of the land; others, by the temptation of a profit rent (a much easier way of living than by labour) let off part of their lands to under tenants—these latter, on the expiration of the lease by which the farm is held, are frequently taken as tenants by the head landlord, who thus answers two purposes; one, of providing for those already found on his estate, and the other, of advancing his political interest by the increase of his freeholds.

Character of the farmers.

It is a difficult matter to give a general character of the inhabitants of any extensive district, especially where there is a very great difference in their situation and circumstances.—The farmer of an extensive tract, whose possessions put him nearly on a par with gentlemen of small incomes, will naturally assume the character of that rank, to which he at least approaches; whilst the renter of a few acres, sinks, nearly to the level of the tradesman or labourer.—It is, therefore, neither in one or the other of these denominations, that we are to look for the general characteristic of the Downshire farmers; but in the middle class, the possessors of from 20 to 50 acres—these we shall find to be a respectable body of men, whether considered in point of understanding, or

morals ; sharp and clever in their dealings, as may be expected from the close population of the country, the constant intercourse, and continual making of bargains, as well as their regular attendance on markets and fairs, which are held in every town, and which are resorted to for amusement and society, as well as for business.—It is not, therefore, in this part of Ireland, that we are to look for the rural simplicity of the pastoral ages ; the children, being early initiated into the habits of industry, soon learn the value of their labours ; and by acquiring, at that period, some little claim to property, gain a degree of knowledge, which never afterwards leaves them ; and that their habits of industry are even increasing, must be apparent to every observer from the evident improvement both of their dress and habitations.—After having said so much, it will not be deemed too strong an assertion to add, that, as tenants, they are unexceptionable ; and that an estate, portioned out amongst men of this description, where nothing is deducted for repairs, where there are no poor rates, and where tithes are moderate, must be productive, and not difficult to manage.

Tithes.

It is but justice to the clergy of this county to say, from respectable authority, that tithes are very moderately set in the county of Down. Incumbency bargains are very common ; the rate from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per acre on the whole farm ;

one or more substantial men binding themselves in each townland, for the payment of the whole tithes of it.—Potatoes do not pay tithe—in some parishes there is a modus for flax, in others none—upon the whole, the people are at least as leniently dealt with by the clergy of this district, as they are by those proprietors in whose hands the tithes of their respective estates are vested; and the interference of a tithe farmer being in general dispensed with, as well as the annual setting, the whole business is generally settled in that amicable manner, so highly creditable to the clergy, and so comfortable to the people; but the truth of history obliges us to observe that the times have been much changed since this was written; and although we know that the virtue and industry of Ulster, will make a hard struggle to yield obedience to the laws, yet we are assured that the difficulties of the people have increased, since that period, while their means of surmounting them have diminished.

Tillage and Fencing.

The mode of tillage is said to have undergone considerable improvement in this county within the last 20 or 30 years, and drill husbandry is extensively practised.—The exertions of a farming society, (in which the late John Christy of Kircassock, a man of considerable ingenuity, took a leading part,) have not, therefore, been useless. Downshire, however, is a farming and manufacturing, but not an extensively feeding county; and a stranger would almost be at a loss to discover

how the market towns are supplied with a sufficiency of beef and mutton, to meet the demands of a respectable population.—The fact, however, is, that almost every one who has land rears or feeds more or less; and a few individuals import cattle from other counties, and thus without a single tract, that in the feeding districts of Ireland would be called extensive, those who are able to purchase fresh meat seldom want it.

A false sentiment of economy appears to have opposed the fencing interests of this county—and, consequently, instead of making new ditches and planting them in the best style, (both for shelter and for beauty,) the system of repairing old ditches that never were and never will be good, has too much prevailed here.—The gentlemen and more opulent farmers form, of course, exceptions to this *bold* and barbarous economy, which, nevertheless, was too conspicuous in the general aspect of the county, some years since, to justify the friend of Irish improvement in passing it over without a note of censure.

Meadows.

From the great inequality of surface in this county, considerable tracts of flat meadow grounds lying together, cannot be expected; yet on the sides of the rivers, particularly of the Bann, the Lagan, &c., there are many excellent and extensive meadows, which are annually enriched by the natural overflowing of the waters—and the valleys, which lie amongst the hills, are generally

very rich, and are capable, if not naturally good, of being made so by levelling and draining; for they contain the finest particles of mould washed from the surrounding hills for ages; and from the peculiar conformation of the grounds, few farms of any extent are without the benefit of some mowing ground.—Nevertheless, little comparative advantage is taken of these favourable circumstances; the meadows, generally speaking, are left to nature; and those, which lie on the sides of rivers and smaller streams, which are very numerous, often receive more injury than good from their situation; for they are fed so late in spring, that to obtain a quantity of grass for hay, they are cut just at the period the waters begin to rise, from which error the crop is often lost by floods, or so much hurt by the earthy particles conveyed by them, as to be rendered useless for any other purpose than that of making dung.

Quantity, in general, seems so much to be preferred to quality, that in those grounds, which from their nature and situation are liable to produce the coarser grasses, the time of cutting is generally so late that all the juices are fled before that operation is performed; and a dry harsh food is provided for cattle, instead of that fine and balmy hay, obtained by early cutting and favourable weather.—Many of the finest and most productive meadows are those, which lie on the skirts of turf bogs, just where the junction is formed between the peaty earth and the loam; the fertility of this compound soil is very great indeed, the

vegetation most rapid, and the natural grasses of the very best kind; which plainly shews, that a judicious mixture of these soils is productive of very great benefit.

In Wiltshire, one of the most considerable dairy counties in England, the meadows are cut early, whether the crop is heavy or light; the consequence of which practice is, that the hay is of so superior a quality, as to keep the finest cow to her milk, or the largest ox to his flesh; and they reckon, where the crop of hay is small from cutting it early, that they obtain a quantity of after-grass at least equal to the deficiency in point of hay; besides the advantage of long days and good weather in making it. It is the opinion of some, that when the Irish soil is in high heart, laying it down with artificial grasses is injurious to its future produce.—Its womb, if we may so speak, is pregnant with grasses, and when its constitution has not been impaired by tillage, it needs no artificial assistance—when so impaired, however, grass seeds are necessary to renew it, and in this case, the lands should be used as grazing ground, for some years at least, before they are fenced up for meadows.

Gardens and Orchards.

Gardening is not much attended to by the farmers of the county of Down; the only part of it, where a garden seems to be the necessary appendage to a farm or cottage, is from Moira towards Waring's-Town, Lurgan and Moyallan, (an incom-

parably beautiful section of the country;) yet even there, potatoes seem to be gaining ground on the other roots and vegetables; and when it is considered how cheap and palatable a food they afford, how easily they are dressed and prepared, the progress they have made must be attributed to their intrinsic value.—But notwithstanding a few early cabbages, curled kail, and peas and beans, are pretty general in most farms; yet not being cultivated with that care they require, the produce is small, and not calculated to supplant their more fortunate rival, the potatoe.—In the vicinity of Belfast, and other towns, there are many gardens cultivated well, to supply the markets, where vegetables are both good and reasonable in price.

By the gentlemen, however, gardening is much attended to, and carried to as great perfection as in any other country; every vegetable, that the climate will admit of, has found its way to their gardens; their stoves and green-houses contain numerous exotics, remarkable for their rarity or beauty; and all the different kinds of fruits, which require heat and covering, are to be met with at their tables.

Orchards were rather losing than gaining ground some years since, many old trees had been stubbed up, few new ones planted, and of those few the success had not been great.—Uncertainty in the produce of orchard grounds, the natural decay of the trees, and the great increase in the value of land, have contributed to their destruction; whilst want of skill, and probably want of care, have

given rise to the idea, that loss of labour and loss of land would be the only consequence of new plantations.—The very great population of this country must, from the difficulty of preserving the fruit, form another bar to the cultivation of apples and other orchard fruits; for unless they are watched, from the first formation of the fruit, until their being finally gathered, the proprietor has no prospect of enjoying the produce.—It is difficult to say, whether the art of planting orchards with success, was better understood at the beginning of the last century than it is at present; yet the orchards, which were planted at that time, were much more productive, according to the generally received opinion, than those which have been cultivated within the last forty or fifty years; probably this may be owing to the natural decay of the species of fruit, and the want of new kinds to replace them; this we shall not take upon us to determine; but certainly, except in the lands of gentlemen, the culture of fruit trees had fallen into disuse in the county of Down, some years since.

Timber, Plantations, and Woodlands.

That the county of Down is not a well wooded country, must be confessed by every person, who has traversed it; and that some of the best cultivated districts most deserve the reproach of nakedness, cannot be denied; but it is a reproach common to the rest of the kingdom, (with a few distinguished exceptions,) and more particularly to those mountain districts that are best calculated for

woods, being inconveniently circumstanced for agricultural uses!—At a particular period in the history of Ireland, one great object of the British government was to get the land cleared of timber; as a necessary step towards the civilization of the inhabitants, and the improvement of the lands.—This, like many other good and useful expedients, has been attended with some inconvenience; it has left a soil, by nature particularly adapted to the growth of trees, bare almost to a proverb.—After a country, once overrun with wood, has, by great exertions, been cleared, it is not an easy matter to persuade the inhabitants of the necessity of that production, to get free from which so much pains had been employed.—The return from planting being slower than from any other species of cultivation, and the person who sets being seldom the same that derives any considerable profit from it, (although an interest in the timber which he puts down and registers, has been lately provided by law for the planting tenant,) it is not surprising that it should be the least rapid of any improvement in its advances, and should only be undertaken, when works of more pressing necessity are accomplished.—By the man who plants, trees are generally considered as an embellishment, and embellishments are seldom thought of, until there is a comparative degree of ease; when that is once obtained by industrious and successful cultivation, we may expect to see ornament attended to, and wood, the principal feature in rural ornament, flourish.—Accordingly those farmers, whose circumstances are

the best, in every part of the country, are beginning to put down a few trees; and, where the farms are small, a few trees on each would very soon give a total change to the face of the country.

Of planting, a great deal has been done by the gentlemen of this county, since the middle of the last century; but much more towards the latter end of it, and this rational and truly useful pursuit is daily gaining ground. How strong an incitement to this pursuit should the reflection be, that, whilst a proprietor is thus employed, he is improving his health, and adding to his fortune, instead of injuring the one, or wasting the other, by indolence or by extravagance; and that for every shilling laid out, he is encreasing twenty fold the public stock, and, in the same ratio, improving his own private property.

Notwithstanding the spirit of planting has gone forth amongst the gentlemen of this land; unless it also pervades in a certain degree, the immediate occupiers, the country never can have that aspect of cultivation, that richness of tint, which trees alone can give.—To contribute to this, landlords should hold out encouragement to their tenants, by supplying them with trees, and rewarding them for their preservation. The expense of this would not be very great, and would ultimately centre in the encreased value of the estate.—At the same time we are well aware of the difficulty of carrying it into execution, and know that it can only be practised under limitations, and with those who shew a spirit of improvement. As for those

tenants, whose sole object is an existence, it cannot be supposed, that any minor consideration would operate upon them; nor, that they could be induced to make and keep up fences for the preservation of trees, which they scarcely can be prevailed on to do for the protection of their own crops.—Every encouragement, therefore, must be suggested by that sagacity, and directed by that prudence, without which, neither public nor private measures can succeed; and for this purpose also, a peasantry improvement society would be of infinite advantage to the country.

Wastes.

The only part of this county, which can in any degree be referred to the above title, is contained in the mountains of Mourne, and of Upper Iveagh; and even these afford, in most places, support to a hardy race of cattle and sheep, bred by the farmers in their neighbourhood; and likewise to a number of others, brought from the lowlands for the summer's run. On these mountains they thrive well, and often are taken away fat at the latter end of September; but a later stay is reckoned hurtful.

These mountains are computed to contain about 30,000 acres, and are in many parts interspersed with vallies, that afford grass to cattle, and also with turf-bog, which, from the scarcity of that article in Lecale, is likely to turn out very advantageous to the owners of those parts, which lie within the reach of that barony.—The conveyance of a road into one of those bogs, has made ground,

that previously would not have produced one shilling per acre, worth some pounds, during the late war; but the greater portion of these mountains is composed of rocky steeps and precipices, so as to preclude any possibility of improving them but by planting; which has been performed, on one part, to the extent, it is said, of 300 acres, by the late Lord Clanbrassil, who for many years planted from thirty to sixty thousand trees annually, until he at length completely covered one of the lower mountains.—In the immediate vicinity of this planted mountain, his incomparable genius, availing itself of the immense advantages of nature, produced a scene, in which every variety of wood, water, and mountain, combine with frequent views of the sea, to form a succession of the most romantic scenery.—In another part, Mr. Needham inclosed and planted a considerable tract on the Mourne side, where he resided several summers; and produced an improvement, which, from the growth of the trees, and the beauty of the streams which flow through it, promised to be little inferior to Tullamore park.

Where planting has been attempted on these mountains, every tree almost has given way to the larch, which seems here to flourish as in its native soil.

Bogs.

The bogs can be no objects of agricultural improvement in this county; since, in many places, there is not a sufficient quantity for the supply of the inhabitants, who, from their attachment to

turf, as fuel, bring it from the distance of eight or ten miles.—In other places, where it is in greater plenty, it will be attacked with increasing rapidity, as the little detached pieces in their neighbourhood are worn out; and the prices at which bog sets, in many situations, are such as no other land, let its fertility or state of cultivation be what it may, could produce.

Where bogs are cut to the sand or clay, the usual method of improving them is by setting potatoes, to which this kind of ground seems particularly propitious; especially if some of the boggy parts remain to mix with the under stratum, which thus becomes a fine loam, sandy or clayey, according to the nature of the bottom.—These grounds, from their low situation, are particularly favourable for the production of grass; and, from the same circumstance, often admit of irrigation, to which this compound soil seems remarkably well adapted. Besides, there is generally some rill near at hand, which, with care, may be conducted over the surface, to which ashes may likewise be applied, obtained with little expense on the spot; as the clay and bog intermixed burn with great facility, and produce a considerable quantity of excellent manure.

Draining.

The hills of this county abound with springs: some shew themselves on the tops, some on the declivities, but most towards the bottoms, and in the strongest and best part of the soil.—Under-

ground draining is very well understood, and, where rocks do not interfere, is not difficult to execute, from the abundance of stone in most places to be found on the surface.—The drains are sunk until the spring is come at; then they are filled with stones, as near the surface as can be done, without fearing interruption from the plough or spade. Some persons throw the stones promiscuously in; but the most approved mode is to lay them neatly at the bottom, and then to throw the remainder as level as can be done, covering them with whins or straw, to prevent the earth falling between the stones. When stones are not to be had, sod-drains are in use; a spade and shovel of a particular kind being the implements to take out the undermost spit, so as to leave a shoulder for an inverted sod to rest on.—These drains are most liable to get out of order, from the sod rotting and giving way; but where stones are not to be obtained, there is no alternative.—The nearer the surface the drains are filled, they are the more effectual; as, in that case, they also intercept, on steep hills more especially, some of the surface-water.—An accidental proof of the efficacy of tapping, (and which, as coming at the *source* of the disease, may be considered as the best of all modes), occurred in this county in the year 1800.—In the middle, or rather towards the latter end of the dry weather in that year, it was found necessary to clean a well in the neighbourhood of Annahilt, about half way towards the summit of a hill, such as this district of

Ireland abounds with.—After the well was cleared, very little water made its way. It was then resolved upon to sink the well, formerly about two feet, to four feet: this was done, and still very little water came; upon which a large iron crow was forced into the ground: this, after a few strokes, sunk into a loose gravel about two feet. On pulling out the instrument, the water instantly followed, and has continued to run until this day: the consequence of which, besides a regular stream of excellent water, was, that the back yard belonging to the house where this operation was performed, and which, having been cut out of the hill, was ten feet lower than the well, and, previous to the well being sunk, never could be kept dry, has from that day lost every appearance of damp, except when it falls from the sky.—A very neat method of making *open drains* is practised in different parts of this county, by sloping the edges of the drains, and sowing grass-seed; but when this is done the good earth ought always to be kept to cover the under stratum, laid bare in forming the declivity.—In all places where stones or strong brushwood cannot be got to close drains with, we would prefer such open drains as these to *covered sod drains*.—They are clean—they are always open to inspection—any obstruction falling into them can be removed at once;—and the time consumed in opening and cleansing covered drains is saved to the proprietor.

Paring and Burning.

The regular system of paring and burning land is chiefly practised in the mountainous parts of this county; and in some few places, where moory soil abounds.—For this operation the soil, we believe, is usually prepared by ploughing and cross ploughing, after which the surface is collected into heaps regularly distributed, and when sufficiently dry to be set on fire, are burned, and afterwards the ashes are spread, and ploughed into the ground.—Excellent crops of grain are procured by this management.—In many parts of this county it is customary to burn the low and deep parts of the hills; which, from being partly bog and partly clay, burn well, and afford much ashes.—Clay alone when burned, which may be done by constructing a kiln for the purpose with flues like a brick-kiln, forms a strong and lasting manure; the same quantity used as of dung.—When the clay is once properly set on fire it will burn any substance thrown on it, how wet soever it may be.—The difficulty is to get the kiln completely fired at first; for this purpose the clay must be dry for the first day, and a proper quantity of fuel allowed.—On the first day's management much of the success depends.

Lime.

The value of this mineral, as a manure, is well understood in Downshire, and its use is rapidly increasing in every province of the island; and beyond a doubt, it is capable of being rendered,

by judicious management, the most *extensively* useful handmaid of agriculture and bleaching that this land can boast of.—Its pungent forcing powers, and the consequent number of crops which the farmer can obtain from an ample coat of this mineral (when judiciously blended with the soil), and the liberal hand with which nature has scattered it through the provinces, have brought it into very general use; while the labour and expense which some farmers, remote from the lime districts, incur to procure it, is truly astonishing.—The misfortune however is, that the bounty of nature in this particular has been sadly perverted, by that inextinguishable rage for *present* gain, from which the small Irish farmer appears to have received no more security from his reasoning powers, than the mere English trader. Hence, in the county of which we are now treating, as in many other parts of Ireland, the forcing powers of this mineral have been called into operation for the production of successive crops, to the ultimate exhaustion of the soil; and in the end of this course, the miserable appearance of the fields, after having been forced to yield six or eight crops of grain without intermission, proves, when late, the impolicy of the system.—We must allow, that to have five or six crops of grain, or more, without any other labour than an annual ploughing and harrowing, is a great temptation; but a farmer, of all professions, ought to look forward and consider, that, let his land produce or not, he must pay his rent; that, if he

ruin it in the beginning, in the end it will ruin him, or at least reduce him to distress; and therefore to have his yarn strong and good, and make his ball wind well to the end, he should add a little oil as he goes along, and should not force his wool into too fine a thread.

Land that has been overcropped in consequence of being limed, should be fitted for another liming, by covering the ground with a layer of fresh soil, and suffering it to continue for some years in grass; but whilst this method is proposed, as a remedy for an existing evil, the farmer is once more cautioned against the pernicious practice of repeated crops of grain, without the intervention of grass or fallow.

Lime is said to have been first introduced into this part of Ulster, about a century ago, by the father or grandfather of the present Mr. Watson, of Brookhill, in the county of Antrim; a seat that stands deservedly distinguished in our survey of this latter county.

Limestone-gravel.

This gravel, which forms a very lasting manure, may be considered as a mixture of detached pieces of limestone with the calcareous earth which surrounds it.—It is used in many parts of Ireland; but in this county chiefly, it is said, in the neighbourhoods of Moira and Magheralin.—When found on, or near a farm, it may be regarded as a useful appendage to the place; but from its gravity, and the vast quantity necessary

to be applied as a manure, it will not, like lime, bear the expense of carriage to any considerable distance.

Marle.

Marle is an extremely strong and powerful manure.—In many parts of Ireland it forms the under stratum of those bogs which supply the country with fuel.—It has the same effect as lime (only in a higher degree) of enriching land, and like it, the effect of calling out its productive qualities to its destruction; and whatever has been said of the ill consequences of strong liming and improper cropping, is equally applicable to marle.

Marle was introduced into the agriculture of Lecale, in Downshire, about a century ago, by the Hon. Michael Ward, one of the justices of the King's Bench. The pit from whence it was first raised, is to be seen on the side of the road between Castle Ward and Downpatrick.—The immediate advance in the value of lands, upon its introduction, was four-fold! but from the *imprudent* use of this manure, the land became exhausted in some years, and fell off in its produce very much.—Of late years, however, from more judicious management, it has resumed its former fertility.

Wreck, Shelly Sand, and Gravel.

Wreck (a kind of sea-weed) is much used as a manure, not only on this, but on many other parts

of the coast of Ireland.—In blowing winds, all hands are at work in drawing it up and securing it. It is used both for potatoes, and in some cases for grain, but its duration is short, seldom producing, we believe, more than one good crop. Shelly sand, and gravel, are also used along the different shores: they are laid very thick upon stiff clay soils, and the best crop is produced from them.

Moss or Turf Bog.

This substance, in its primitive state, may be usefully applied to certain soils; but, as a manure, is most useful, when combined with some more strong and powerful material.—It opens the bosom of a stiff clay soil, in a course of tillage (even in its primitive state,) which, in this case, is its chief virtue; and from the moisture it imparts to upland meadows, and that protection from the influence of a burning sun, which it affords to the tender plant, it forms a capital surface dressing for those meadows; but as a manure, we conceive it cannot possibly impart much vigour to the soil, unless previously combined with some more pungent and powerful substance.—A proper quantity of lime blended with bog-stuff, and well mixed *in a large heap*, for some months before it is put out, will be found a good and useful compost for any upland soil; and if the clay of old ditches, or the scourings of their gripes, can be added, it will make a strong and lasting manure, provided that all these ma-

terials have been properly blended into one, and left for some months to amalgamate, if we may so speak, before the manure is put into the ground.—By burning bog-stuff, and reducing it to ashes, a capital manure may be obtained, without the addition of any other article; and in districts where bog is plenty and lime scarce, we would recommend this mode for raising crops of potatoes and grain on upland soils, and for improving them.

Town manures.

In the neighbourhood of towns many manures are used, that do not come within the reach of farmers in general;—as for instance, soot, soap-er's waste, coal ashes, and street dirt.—Soot is a very powerful manure, and as a top dressing for wheat, is said to have proved very successful.—Coal ashes is good for heavy land, and particularly for coarse meadows, being a superior corrective of the harsh herbage which these naturally produce.—In the neighbourhood of bleach greens, the ashes thrown out, after the process of boiling, improve meadows and pastures very much; soap-er's waste being of the same nature, is also used for the same purpose, where it can be procured, and the pulverized matter collected from streets and roads in the winter season, is one of the best manures for a potatoe crop, which this country produces.—The author of this work had a tenant, who sowed a ridge of potatoes in the lazy-bed way, with this manure; and a similar

ridge with stable dung, the same year.—The latter ridge produced him one good, and one middling crop of potatoes from this dressing.—The former, with the assistance of a *sprinkling* of bog stuff, on the third season, produced him three crops of potatoes, superior to the other.—A due proportion of this manure combined with bog stuff, makes an excellent compost, and is collected for that purpose by many of the poor Irish, whose existence (with the exception of the province on which we are now writing) is supported almost exclusively by their potatoe crop.

Food.

The general food of the population of Downshire, are, potatoes, oatmeal boiled and baked, with milk and butter in summer, and some bacon; in winter hung beef.—All the farmers have and use some of these latter articles, a distinction necessary to a right understanding of the history of this province; for it is a fact (and a fact that will probably appear *passing strange* to honest John of *Number One*) that many Irish farmers in the other provinces, through whose hands much bacon and butter pass, never taste them, except at Christmas and Easter.—The luxury of new milk is almost equally unknown to them, being carefully hoarded up for the butter market; and yet a poor Irishman or his wife, who would not allow themselves or their family six go downs of new milk in a month together, would bring to the side of an Englishman's carriage, should he stop to ask for a cup

of cold water, in the heat of a summer tour through the country, a noggin full of their best cream, and would perhaps apologize to his honour for the humility of their cabin fare!—The linen manufacturers of Downshire and elsewhere in Ulster, live in the same comfortable manner as do the farmers; unless the very high price of meat, or a very bad trade, should deprive them of the means of procuring their usual comforts.—There is one branch of household economy, in which the population of Ireland, are very generally defective—that is, such a regulation of their milch cows, as shall secure to them a sufficient supply of milk and butter during the winter season.—This observation, it is true, does not apply so directly to the trading farmer, who seldom tastes the luxuries of his own farm, as to persons of a better class.—To these, whether in the town or in the country, the inconvenience resulting from this mismanagement, must have been as regular and protracted, as the winter season, and as pinching to the family in its effects;—and yet, such is the force of a long established error, that it continues to be the ruling practice of the country.—Even in those counties of England, where the sale of the produce of the dairy is their trade; we understand it is their practice so to regulate the stock upon their milch farms, as that their cows shall calve in winter.—In Ireland the general practice is opposed to this, and yet nothing can be more obvious, than that the produce of one good new milch cow in the winter season, is of more value to the *consumer*,

than that of three ordinary cows with calf.—The winter calving cow, when placed upon good grass the following summer, will still milk well; and on these accounts (and to families of decent rank the value of winter milk need not be dwelt upon) ought not the absurd and careless economy, which deprives children of a plentiful supply of this rich fluid in the cold winter season, be abandoned, and left to the exclusive enjoyment of those poor farmers, who derive no other advantage from their milk, than the quantity of butter which it will produce for sale.

Fuel.

So attached are the inhabitants of Downshire to turf as fuel (and this, like many other features of the history of this county, may be applied with equal accuracy to other districts) that even near the sea coast, where coals may be had at a reasonable price, many of the peasantry prefer going ten miles for the former; as those who burn turf in many parts of the barony of Lecale, are obliged to do.—The colly arising from the coal smoke is so disgusting to the females, who have been used to turf, that nothing can reconcile them to it; and the men kindly give way to their feelings; but the time must come (if it has not arrived already) when to gratify them in this particular, will no longer be within the reach of their affectionate and manly condescension; for, with the increase of the people, the bogs have diminished, and in some cantons have taken their everlasting flight;

consequently, when coal fuel, shall, of necessity, be *forced* upon the women, it will be necessary for the men, in their own defence, to remove from their pretty faces, by a nameless tender process, (*well and frequently applied*) that most disfiguring influence of the coal—the *acid stain*.

Roads.

The roads of Downshire, are in general allowed to be excellent; although perhaps there are a few exceptions.—The soil is dry—the country is not *flat—nor is its moisture much promoted by lofty hedge rows!*—The materials for making the roads are good, and the gentlemen of the county, to do them justice, keep them for the most part in good order, and are said to be anxious to have the money granted for them honestly accounted for; a compliment, which perhaps could not be paid, in truth, to all their fellow countrymen in the other districts.—The true science of road making, is now beginning to be seen and acted upon in Ireland; and in every such improvement, that highly enlightened part of Ulster, in which Downshire is situated, may be expected to take the lead.—However, even in this district, some vestiges of the old barbarous *up hill* system, continue to disgrace the country, as the traveller ascending the great hill of Lisburn, in his progress from Dublin, to Belfast, will perceive, by the panting of his horses, and by the difficulty with which he is dragged into the town.—It is true, the surface of this and many other parts of Ulster, is so various, that to avoid every inequality would be

impossible ; but certainly a better entrance into Lisburn, than by a hill on the great coach road between Dublin and Belfast, which is a discredit to that road, might be easily pointed out by the finger of an engineer ; and the same remarks are applicable to some other vestiges of the old system, which remain to be corrected in this county.

Agricultural Society.

An Agricultural Society, was instituted, several years since, in Downshire, by some public spirited gentlemen, and we presume is still existing.—Had the late Marquis of Downshire lived a little longer (a man, from his own disposition, inclined in every way to promote the public good, and ever ready, both to plan and to adopt any plan likely to promote that end) he would have been at the head of this society, and by his counsel and example, would have given vigour and stability to such an infant institution.—The present Marquis, however, happily for the people, not only treads in his father's footsteps in this particular, but in education and other branches of rural economy, sets a praise worthy example to his country.

Survey.

This county was surveyed in 1653, by Doctor, afterwards Sir William Petty.—The following account of it is given by George Edward Howard, in his treatise of the Exchequer and Revenue of Ireland, Vol. II. Appendix, No. 4.—“The Down survey, taken in 1653, by Doctor, afterwards Sir

William Petty, being laid down by chain and scale, was so called to distinguish it from the *Civil Estimate Surveys*, being surveys made by the civil power by commission, dated 1642, and made by estimate or repute of the country." The volume of the Down survey, which contained the barony of Upper Iveagh, was unfortunately burned in 1712, at the time the Council-Office and other offices in Essex Street, Dublin, were burned, but some fragments of the maps of it were preserved, and some of the surveys.—A map of the county was published in 1767, by Doctor Kennedy, from surveys of the different estates furnished to that ingenious gentleman by the proprietors; the plates of this map were in being some years since—the map itself is very much esteemed, but it would require to be supplied with the new roads, made since its publication.—We have repeatedly thought of this mode of providing each county with its own map; as with accuracy it unites economy and dispatch.

N. B. A copy of the Down survey, belonging to Sir W. Petty, was seized in its passage to England, by a French privateer, and is now in the Library de Richelieu, at Paris.—It was copied by General Vallancey, by order of government.—This copy is in the Surveyor-General's Office, and is often referred to.

Antiquities of the County of Down.

This county presents to the view of the enquiring stranger, antiquities, both of Pagan and Christian origin.

Among the first are the cairn, the circle of rude stone pillars, and the cromlech or Druid's altar.

Of these a cairn on the summit of the Slieve Croob mountain, 80 yards in circumference at the base, and 50 at the summit; and a cromlech in the Giant's Ring, near the church of Drumboe, on the summit of the hill between Lisburn and Belfast, are not the least remarkable.—This latter object consists of a rude incumbent stone of 7 feet by $6\frac{1}{2}$, supported by ranges of rude pillars from 2 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height.—In a circular enclosure of two or three furlongs, this altar has been erected; and the person who enters to inspect it, finds himself precluded, by an immense rampart, from the observation of every object in the universe, save the great altar of sacrifice, and those visible heavens, to which the smoke of the victim ascended as a cloud of incense, to avert its wrath, and propitiate the favour of the gods.—There is a something inexpressibly grand and awful in the appearance of this early monument of superstition; which the mind of sensibility cannot behold without being deeply interested.

Among the antiquities of Christian origin, the church of Downpatrick is indisputably the first in this county, it having been founded by St. Patrick (whose name it bears) in the year of our Lord 493.

—Some idea may be formed of the wealth of this foundation from its possessing, in the twelfth century, 47 town-lands; and with them seven churches or parishes.—The ferry of Strangford lough, towards Dufferrin, the ferry of Carlingford, of the Bann, and all the different ferries of his conquests were granted unto this abbey in the same century by Sir John de Courcy; the ferry between Lecale and the Ards alone excepted. The same Sir John granted also every tenth cow, and every tenth animal on all his farms, except those in the Ards.—In the year 1185 the bodies of St. Patrick, St. Columb, and St. Brigid, were discovered in this abbey, with the following epitaph written over them :

Hi tres in Duno, tumulo tumulantur in uno
Brigida, Patricius, atque Columba pius.

Thus translated by the author of the History of the County of Down,

One tomb three saints contains, one vault below
Does Patrick, Brigid, and Columba shew.

Many remains of antiquity have been found amongst the ruins of this abbey; an Agnus Dei, painted glass, lead, &c. &c., several cells, one floored with painted tiles; and lately, in repairing the old cathedral, an image of St. Patrick in basso relievo was dug up, about two feet and a half in length; his mitre on his head, and crosier in his hand; the work rudely but not unskilfully done.—St. Patrick likewise founded the abbey of Saul, where he is said to have died in his 120th

year; of this monastery considerable ruins are still to be seen.—St. Patrick also founded an abbey at Drumboe.—St. Colman was the founder of an abbey at Dromore, in the sixth century, of regular canons; Doctor Burke also mentions a monastery of Franciscans.

The most respectable foundation after Down, in point of wealth, was Bangor, an abbey of canons regular, founded in the year 555 by St. Congall, who was born in Ulster of noble parentage. This abbey nearly if not fully equalled that of Down; for, in an inquisition held in the reign of James I. it was found that the last abbot, William O'Dorman, in the 32nd year of Henry VIII, possessed 31 town-lands in the Ards and Upper Clanebois; also the grange of Earbeg in the county of Antrim, the two Copeland islands, three rectories in Antrim, and three in Down; and what seems very curious, the tithes of the island of Raghlin or Raghery; likewise a town-land in the Isle of Man.—The number of monks belonging to this house are said to have been two or three thousand; nine hundred are said to have been destroyed by pirates in one day.—Part of the ruins still exist, and the traces of the foundations shew it to have been of great extent; the windows were of the ancient Gothic kind.

Moville, a monastery of Augustin canons, was also remarkable for the antiquity of its foundation, as well as the richness of its endowments; it was founded in the year 550, by a St. Finian, son of Ultach, King of Ulster, and at the dissolution of

religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII, it appears to have been possessed of seven town-lands, and the spiritualities of sixteen and a half besides; these were granted by King James I. to Viscount Claneboys, in fee farm for £3. 3s. 4d. Irish money.—This abbey lay about a mile from Newtown, on the road to Donaghadee; part of the ruins still remain, and the vestiges of considerable foundations.

Gray Abbey, on the lough of Strangford, in the barony of Ards, was founded by Africa, daughter of the King of Man, in the year 1192; she was the wife of John de Courcy; it was peopled by her with Cistercian monks, from Cumberland; and here she took up her last residence.—In an inquisition taken in the reign of James I. it was found that the last abbot, in the 32nd of Henry VIII. was possessed of seven town-lands in the vicinity, and three in Lecale.—Part of the lands belonging to this abbey were granted to the Earl of Kildare.—The statue of the foundress, much defaced, is still to be seen on one side of the altar; from what remains, we may suppose this was a large and sumptuous building. The east window is a fine specimen of Gothic architecture; on each side of the altar is a handsome window of free-stone, neatly carved; they are now grown over with ivy.—All the offices of the monastery are now in ruins; only so much remains of them as serve to point out their extent, amidst the trees, shrubs, &c., with which they are over-grown; part of the east end of the great building is fitted up

for a church.—In the gardens of this abbey is a large well, covered with an arch ornamented with sculpture; this well never fails.

Inch, or Iniscourcey, opposite Downpatrick, was founded by Sir John de Courcy, to make his peace with heaven, for having destroyed the abbey of Erynagh in his wars; he gave it to the monks of the Cistercian order, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, on the third of June 1180, and endowed it with all the possessions of the abbey of Erynagh.—Part of the church still remains; at the east end are large windows with Gothic arches—in the north and south walls two windows, each of two arches, not much inferior to those at the east.

At Newry there was a Cistercian abbey, founded in honour of the Virgin Mary and St. Patrick, by Maurice M'Laughlin, King of all Ireland, about the middle or latter end of the twelfth century.—There was a college also, consisting of a warden and vicars choral.—Henry VIII granted them a confirmation of all their possessions, in his 30th year; the rent four marks.—The episcopal jurisdiction, exercised by the abbot over the lordships of Newry and Mourne, is still enjoyed by Mr. Needham, descended from Sir Nicholas Bagnal, to whom this abbey was granted by King Edward VI; the seal of his court is a mitred abbot in his alb, sitting in a chair supported by two yew-trees, with this inscription; *Sigillum exemptæ jurisdictionis de viridi ligno*, alias Newry and Mourne.—It was a tradition of the natives, that two large yew trees formerly

grew within the precincts of the abbey, from whence it was called in the Latin of that age, *Monasterium de viridi ligno*, and in Irish *Na jur*, of the yew trees; and in ancient writings the appellation is for the most part in the plural number, viz. the Newries.—It is said that some English soldiers, digging a grave in the year 1688, discovered the stumps of some trees of very fine wood, of a red colour, which took a fine polish, in the south east part of this abbey.

Black Abbey, near Ballyhalbert in the Ards, was founded by Sir John de Courcy, for Benedictine monks; he died A. D. 1210.—This abbey possessed three townlands, besides tithes, &c.—The priory and its appurtenances were seized by the O'Neils.—On the rebellion of this family they were vested in the crown, and, by King James I. granted to James Viscount Clanaboys, who assigned them to Lord Ardes; but in 1639 they were awarded to the see of Armagh.

At Castle-bury, or John's Town in the Ards, three miles north of Portaferry, a religious institution dedicated to John the Baptist, was founded by Hugh de Lacy, in the 12th century.—Nothing now remains of the building but ruins; the family of Echlin possess several townlands and a manor court, formerly attached to this institution. At Comber there was an abbey of Cistercian monks, founded in the latter end of the 12th century; but a more ancient one, of regular canons, was the work of St. Patrick.—Newtown also had a monastery of Dominican friars, founded by Walter de

Burgh in 1244.—The last prior voluntarily surrendered three townlands in his possession to Henry VIII.; these were granted by James I. to James Viscount Claneboys, at the rent of 13s. 4d. Irish money.

Besides the religious houses above-mentioned, there were many others of less note; of some the situation is unknown, but most of them are now replaced by parish churches.—An alphabetical list of them, as set down in the *Monasticum Hibernicum*, here follows.

Achadhcaoil, near Dundrum, in the barony of Lecale, founded in the fifth century.

Ardicnise, a Franciscan friary; unknown.

Breatain, in Lecale; founded in the sixth century.

Cluaindaimh, in Iveagh.

Domnachmaghin; founded by St. Patrick, in Mugdorna, or barony of Mourne.

Eanachelte, Annahilt, now a parish church; founded in the territory of Hibbetach (Lower Iveagh) by St. Molibba, in the eighth century.—Archdall's returning this as unknown, must have proceeded from the spelling of the name.

Erynagh, in Lecale, about one mile and a half south of Downpatrick.—This was destroyed by Sir John de Courcy, who built an abbey at Inis, or Inch, in atonement for this offence.

Eynes; supposed to have stood near Abbey, in the barony of Ards.

Hollywood; on the bay of Carrickfergus, three miles north east of Belfast; the origin unknown.

—In the 1st of James I. Connogher O'Hamle, the last prior, surrendered this priory of St. Francis, and five townlands; these were granted to James Viscount Claneboys, for £1. 3s. 4d. rent.

Kilcholpa, near Down; an abbey founded by St. Patrick, now unknown.

Kilclief, at the entrance of Strangford lough; an abbey of regular canons, at a very ancient period, said to have been the residence of the bishops of Down.—An hospital for lepers was founded here, dedicated to St. Peter.

Kilmbiain; founded by St. Fergus, Bishop of Down; now unknown.

Kiltonga; north of Newtown, barony of Ards.

Magheralin.—St. Colman founded the monastery of Lin in the east of Ulster.—Ruins of considerable extent have been lately traced there.

Neddrum.—No island of that name; probably the Copeland Isle.

Noendrum; unknown.

Slieve Donard.—St. Domangart, a disciple of St. Patrick, founded a noble monastery at the foot of this mountain; his festival is on the 4th of March, yet the patron day is the 25th of July, when the Roman Catholics climb the mountain to perform their penance; probably it was changed to that season, which is more favourable for ascending the mountain.

Tamlachta Umhail; near lough Blisklau, (probably Loughbrickland;) in Iveagh; now unknown.

Teghddgobha.—This abbey, now unknown, is

said to have been in the barony of Iveagh, on the Bann.

Toberglory; founded by Sir John de Courcy, in honour of St. Thomas; he gave it to the regular canons of the Virgin Mary, at Carlisle; he endowed it with lands adjoining to it, and a burghage within the town of Down, likewise with all the tithes of his house, and house expenses and demesnes.

Struel Wells, or St. Patrick's, deserve a place amongst the ecclesiastical antiquities of this county; they are four in number, and lie to the east of Downpatrick; each well is covered with a vault of stone, and the water is conveyed from one to the other by subterraneous aqueducts.—The largest and most celebrated of these vaults is 16 feet by 11, and is more particularly said to have received St. Patrick's benediction; in this the people bathe; there is a chamber for undressing;—the other wells are for washing different parts of the body, the eyes, head, limbs, &c.—These vaults seem to be ancient, and near one of them are the ruins of a chapel, dedicated to St. Patrick.—Vast numbers resort here on Midsummer's eve, and on the Friday before Lammas; some to obtain health, and others to perform their enjoined penances.—We must not omit St. Finian's well, near the race-course, nor St. Scordin's in the vicinity of Killough; this last gushes out of a rock on the sea-shore, and is never observed to diminish in the driest seasons.

As the Round Towers, which are so frequent in Ireland, are generally found at no great distance

from the ruins of ecclesiastical buildings, their place in the antiquities of this county seems to follow the former subject, of course.—Until of late, two buildings of this kind were in existence, that of Drumboe, and that of Downpatrick; the first is yet standing; the latter, which we have already noticed in our description of this shire-town, was pulled down in the year 1790.—Its height was 66 feet, the thickness of the walls three feet, and the diameter eight feet.—The most remarkable circumstance, however, in the history of the overthrow of this tower, remains yet to be told; and as this circumstance is supported, by what we conceive to be unquestionable authority, (and from its recent date, can still be examined on the spot, and either supported or refuted by living witnesses,) we are happy to have the opportunity of laying it before the view of the antiquarians of the day, who (if this fact shall be established) will henceforth find it difficult to bring those towers back to the days of the witch of Endor, the old Druids, or the Worshippers of the Sun. In fact it makes the old church of Downpatrick to have existed prior to the birth of *this tower at least*; and what the antiquarians shall do with the remainder, after this has been disposed of, we must leave to the wisdom of those antiquated venerables, in full council.—When the tower was thrown down and cleared away to the foundation, another foundation was discovered *under it, and running directly across the site of the tower*, which appeared to be *a continuation of the church wall*, and which, at

some period prior to the building of the tower, seemed to have extended considerably beyond it! This curious circumstance was observed by several gentlemen, at the spring assizes of Downpatrick in 1790.—The round tower at Drumboe stands about 24 feet north west of the ruins of the church; it is nearly 36 feet in height, 47 in circumference, and nine feet in the clear; the entrance is on the east side, five feet from the ground; the stones around the door are parts of a circle, and were taken from a quarry, in the neighbourhood.—It is supposed there was formerly a small fortified town at Drumboe, and that the foundation of the wall was still to be traced; of late, in labouring the fields in the environs, many hearth stones and other remains have been dug up. The following note, however, drags us back to the great antiquity, and revives an idea of the eastern origin of those buildings; but whether we are indebted to those great traders, the Phœnicians, for this Indian production, as for those much more useful ones, the spindle and the loom (supposed to be of eastern origin also), we leave, as a matter of conjecture and dispute with the learned who have leisure for such amusing researches. For our own parts, we acknowledge ourselves quite incompetent to furnish a solution to this mysterious question.*

* From Mr. Pennant's View of Hindoostan it appears, that the original pagodas were single towers, like those in Ireland—Vol. II. p. 23—speaking of the circars granted to the French, he says, "All the people of this part of India are Hindoos, and

Military Antiquities.

Unless we include in this class the different strengths, which are composed of earth thrown up in various forms, and a few warlike instruments of ancient fashion, that have been found at several times and places, we shall find that there is nothing, which can with propriety be referred to the above-mentioned denomination, that is not of undoubted English origin; and that all the castles, erected at different periods, were constructed by English artists, so that they are in nothing different from those which were built at the same times in England.—The continual change of habitation, and the unsettled state of property amongst the Irish, (the consequence of their laws and regulations respecting inheritance,) prevented that attention to places of permanent residence, which we find to have been paid by other nations not in a higher degree of civilization; for nothing could be more natural than their negligence in the article of improve-

retain the *old religion*, with all its superstition; this makes the pagodas here much more numerous than in any other part of the peninsula, their form too is *different*, being chiefly buildings of a *cylindrical* or *round tower* shape, with their tops either pointed or truncated at the summit, and ornamented with something eccentric, but frequently with a round ball, stuck on a spike—this ball seems intended to represent the *sun*, an emblem of the deity of the place”—And at p. 27, speaking of the great pagoda of *Chilambaram*, the most celebrated for its sanctity of any in India, he says—“According to Mr. Ives, it has three precincts, and the towers are in the inner.”

The tower of Ardmore, in the county of Waterford, still preserves its pointed top.—See a view of it in Smith's History of that county.

ments which must have been attended with trouble and expense, when they had almost a certainty that they should not descend to their heirs.—But after Ireland was conquered by the English, and the lands were restored to any of the original proprietors to hold from them, they were granted under the condition of inheritance in the direct line; in consequence of which some of them began to provide for their descendants, by erecting castles and fortified houses, and by attending to such improvements as were most in fashion at the time they lived.—Yet how slowly this idea operated, may be collected from the small number of buildings of strength erected by the old Irish, in comparison with the English.—A slight sketch of the history of those ancient buildings, which are to be found in many parts of this county, will add strength to this observation; and will shew, that the three great families of the O'Neil's, (or O'Nial's,) M'Cartanes, and M'Gennises, who possessed nearly the whole of this county, so far from portioning out their territories, like the English, and having places of strength erected upon them, scarcely possessed a strong hold for their own residence.—Con O'Neil, who held so great a portion of Castlereagh and the Ards, seems to have had no other fortified place than his seat at Castlereagh, which was situated on the summit of a hill of the same name, in a fort encompassed three fourths by a deep ditch.—M'Cartane, whose lands extended into the barony of Kinelearty, and the south part of Castlereagh, resided at Annadom; nor do we find

mention made of any other place immediately belonging to him.—The M'Gennises indeed are said to have had Newcastle, built by Felix, (according to the history of the county of Down,) in 1588; a house also at Castlewellan, and a castle on the hill at Rathfryland.—Another and a very satisfactory reason might be adduced for the frequency of the English castles, when compared with the Irish; the former came in as invaders, and consequently were obliged to secure themselves against the inhabitants; whilst the latter relying on the fidelity of their countrymen, thought they had a sufficient security in their numbers and attachment; and probably looked forward to the time when they should expel them and take possession of their labours.

A note upon the following passage from p. 279, of Lyttleton's History of Henry II. book v. will in some degree account for the few buildings erected by the Irish chiefs, after the invasions of the English.—“The cause of this was a fixed opinion in the Irish, that walled towns and forts were dangerous to their freedom, and that to them it would always be more advantageous to destroy than to possess them.”—The note says, this opinion prevailed so long among them, that Con O'Neil, whom King Henry VIII. created Earl of Tyrone, cursed all his posterity, who should build any houses, saying, “that by building they would but do as the crow doth, make her nest to be beaten out by the hawks.”—The word *houses* here, meant houses of brick or stone, such as the English built in Ire-

land, which were generally castles or edifices in walled towns; whereas the Irish dwelt in huts, readily raised or pulled down, like the ancient Britons and Germans.—The first military antiquity we meet with to the south of this county, is Green Castle, in the barony of Mourne, standing upon an inlet of the sea.—This is said to have been a strong castle, fortified by the Burghs, Earls of Ulster; and was remarkable for two marriages celebrated here in 1312, one between Maurice Fitz-Thomas, and Catherine daughter of the Earl of Ulster, on the 5th of August, and the other between Thomas Fitz-John and another daughter of the same Earl, on the 16th of the same month.—It was destroyed by the Irish in 1343, but afterwards repaired and better fortified.—It appears by a record in Bermingham Tower, of the first of Henry IV. that Green Castle and Carlingford Castle were governed by one constable, to secure a communication between the English pale in the county of Louth, and the English settlements in Lecale and the northern parts; and that Stephen Gernon was that year constable of both castles, with a salary of £20. for Green Castle, and of £5. for Carlingford.—In 1495 it was thought to be a place of such importance to the crown, that no person but of English birth was declared capable of being constable of it.—This castle was a garrison in the rebellion of 1641, and helped to restrain the Irish in those uncultivated parts.

The castle of Narrow-Water, built on a rock in

the channel of Newry river, is of modern date, having been erected by the Duke of Ormond after the Restoration.

Newry was fortified by Sir Nicholas Bagnal, about the year 1578, as appears from a stone on the outside of the steeple of the church, which he built.—Shane O'Neil at this time lived at Fedom, about a mile from Newry, suffering no subject to travel from Dundalk northward; but after the fortifying of the former, the passages of the country were opened.

Dundrum Castle is finely situated on a rock, commanding a view of the whole bay of that name; the sea to the south, a great part of Lecale to the east, and the mountains of Mourne to the south and south west.—There are still considerable remains of this castle, particularly a circular tower, and near to it a little tower, the ruins of an ancient mansion.—This castle is said to have been built by Sir John de Courcy, for the Knights Templars, who possessed it till the year 1813, when that order was abolished.—It was afterwards granted to the Prior of Down, who held the same, with a small manor adjoining, till the first suppression of religious houses. The reversion of this house and manor, with the yearly rent of £6. 13s. 4d. reserved out of it, was granted to Gerald Earl of Kildare.—This castle, with seven townlands, was granted to the family of M'Gennis: on their forfeiture it became the property of the Earl of Ardglass, and

afterwards came into the possession of the Lord Viscount Blundell, to whose representative, (the late Marchioness of Downshire,) it descended.—When this castle was in repair, it often proved a good guard to the pass, and as often an offensive neighbour to the English planted in Lecale, according to the hands that possessed it.—In 1517, the Earl of Kildare, then lord-deputy, marched into Lecale, and took it by storm; it being garrisoned at that time by the Irish, who had driven out the English some time before.—It was again possessed and repaired by the M'Gennis, and retaken by Lord-deputy Gray, with seven castles more in Lecale, in 1538.—It afterwards got into the hands of Phelim M'Evor M'Gennis, who was obliged to yield it to Lord Mountjoy, the 16th of June, 1601.—It met with another fate during the progress of the war in 1641, when it was demolished by order of Cromwell, though garrisoned by Protestants, and has ever since been suffered to run entirely to ruins.

Newcastle, in a village of that name in Upper Iveagh, has already been noticed in these memoirs.—It was built by Felix M'Gennis, in the memorable year 1588. It was very strong; and is now converted into a commodious dwelling-house, situated on the verge of the sea.

Ardglass having been already noticed as an ancient sea-port and place of trade (in which point of view the Author of the History of the County of Down, and other authorities, regard

the principal building of this place) we shall here confine ourselves to those castles which assume an exclusively military character.

King's Castle, Horn Castle, and Cloud Castle, are still in part remaining; besides Jordan's Castle, memorable for the defence made there by the valiant owner, Simon Jordan, who held it out three years, till he was relieved by Lord Mountjoy, the 17th of June, 1601.—It is uncertain by whom these castles were erected; yet, it is probable, that Jordan's castle was erected by one of that family, whose arms (a cross and three horse-shoes) are fixed on a stone near the top.—Saint Patrick founded a church at this place.

Kilclief Castle is situated on the entrance of the bay of Strangford.—This was once the see-house of the bishops of Down. It was here that John Celey, bishop of that see, publicly lived with the beautiful Lettice Thombe, a married woman; for which scandal, Swain, Archbishop of Armagh, in 1441, served him with a monitory process in his castle at Kilclief; and there was a chamber in the castle, called the hawk's chamber, where it is said the bishop kept his falconer and his hawks.—This tradition might have been taken from the figure of a bird resembling a hawk, carved on a stone chimney-piece in an apartment of the castle.

On the west side of the road from Killough to Downpatrick, are the castles of Bright and Screen; the latter remarkable for having been built in a

Danish rath. The castle of Clough is also built in a similar one: they are now both in ruins.

Near Strangford, further up the strait, are two old castles; one called Walsh's Castle, the other Castle Audley.—This latter, from its bold situation, commands a view of the lake as far as Newtown.—The name of this castle shews, that it was built by one of the Audleys, who settled here under John de Courcy, in the infancy of the English government.

Portaferry Castle was the ancient seat of the Savages. Considerable additions were made to this castle, and finished in 1636.

At Arquin were likewise a castle and dwelling house of another branch of this ancient family, inclosed within a rampart, and standing boldly over the lake, on a pretty high hill.—As this part of the Ards was often the seat of war between the Irish and this family, whose estate it formerly was, and a considerable part of it still is, we shall find several other castles in it, of which, besides those mentioned, there are three yet remaining—Quintin Bay Castle, two miles south of Portaferry; Newcastle, three miles east of the same place; and Kirkistown, four miles north east of it.—This and Ballygalgot Castle were built after the accession of James I. by Rowland Savage, of Arquin.

In the barony of Castlereagh are the ruins of that old castle from whence the barony is said to take its name: they are situated on the top of a ridge of hills, in one of those forts usually attri-

buted to the Danes. This fort has a fosse, which encompasses three fourths of it. In the midst of the fort stood the castle, formerly the seat of Con O'Neil.—Besides this castle, there is Kill Hall, near Drumboe, a square fortification, four flankers; both belonging to the Marquis of Downshire.

In the barony of Dufferin stands the castle of Killileagh, at the western end of the town of the same name.—The family of Hamiltons, created first Lords Clanboys, and since Earls of Clanbrassil, (but whose titles are now extinct,) had their residence in this castle, which was recently the residence of Gawen Hamilton, Esq. who, with Sir James Stephenson Blackwood, are the heirs, by the female line, of that noble family.

In the barony of Kinalearty, near the village of Annadom, stood the castle or seat of the M'Artanes, on an eminence now called Castle-Hill.—The neighbouring church of Loughen Island, situated in a peninsula of a most romantic lake, is thought to have been their burial place.

The castle of Clough, situated in a Danish fort, has an extremely antique appearance.—It has still part of a winding staircase existing, and must have been solely built for defence, as it was too small for the residence of a family of note: the building of it is attributed to the Danes. The outworks which surround it are very extensive, extending behind the town, to the east, as far as the gardens of Mr. Moore's house: the situation is excellent for defence, the ground sloping from

it on all sides, and no hill sufficiently near to command it.

In Upper Iveagh, on the summit of a hill near Rathfryland, are the ruins of an old castle, one of the seats of the M'Gennises, lords of Iveagh.—This castle was formerly very large; but most of it was pulled down by Mr. Hawkins, the first Protestant proprietor of it, after the rebellion in 1641.—Newcastle has already been mentioned: to this may be added those built by Colonel Monk (afterwards general, and Duke of Albemarle), on the passes which separate this county from Armagh; namely, Scarvagh, Pointz, and Tuscan passes. There are still some remains of these fortifications.

At Hillsborough, in Lower Iveagh, is a small castle (noticed in our view of that place) formerly the gateway to a more extensive fortification.—The family of Downshire are hereditary constables of this castle.

Detached Pieces of Antiquity, that have been found in different places.

Besides the antiquities, which have been enumerated, there are many others, which have been accidentally met with in different parts of this county.—Some years ago, a beautiful plate of gold, shaped like a half-moon, was dug up from a bog in the barony of Castlereagh, which is now in the possession of the Downshire family (it having been found on their estate.) It is very

thin, the gold remarkably fine, without any other ornament than a narrow waving line cut along the edge: part of it was broken off in taking up. The colour of the metal is uncommonly fine, and the workmanship neat. A curious golden relic was found in the parish of Ahaderig, near Loughbrickland, in the barony of Upper Iveagh, within the manor of Dromore, (which has many great and uncommon privileges; for the Bishop of Dromore, whose lordship it is, appoints a coroner to his own manor, and may require the king's writs to be executed, not by the sheriff, but by his own officer.)—This piece of gold appears to have been part of the branch of a golden candlestick, being composed of three very thick gold wires or plates, twisted into a triple cord, so strong as to be able to support the nozzle of a sconce for a candle, with a solid gold cone at the end, to go into a socket, &c.—A watchmaker, (resident, we believe, in Bannbridge), who first bought this gold, told the bishop's agent, that a great deal of treasure had from time to time been found there (some of which he had purchased and sold in Dublin), as gold cups, dishes, &c. probably chalices and patens, and other monastic or church furniture, of which this piece of a sconce, or chandelier, was apparently a part.—It was found by a woman, as she was passing through the townland of Drumsallagh, in some rubbish, thrown up for the purpose of making room for an addition to a cabin—on her return home she gave it to her husband, who sold it to the watchmaker for six guineas:

from this person the Bishop of Dromore might have easily recovered it, as treasure trove within his manor; but, to encourage the people in future to bring him whatsoever they so found, he was content to purchase it from the watchmaker at double the price he paid for it.

In consequence of this discovery, an inquiry was set on foot by the bishop's desire; from which Dr. Shiel, then vicar-general of Dromore, found that, in the town-land of Drumsallagh, there had formerly been a monastery of the order of St. Francis; that after the dissolution of the religious houses in Ireland there remained several mendicant friars, who still housed round the ruins of their monastery, which was situated about 200 yards from the old church of Ahaderig, in the same town-land. The ruins of the church are probably still existing; but most of the ruins of the monastery, with its choicest stones, were removed about an English mile, to the place where the church now stands.—Dr. Shiel found, upon further inquiry from an old man, whose name was Fegan, (and above 90 years of age), that he remembered the walls of this building standing, to the height of three or four feet, and about 90 feet in length; but that above 40 years ago they had been removed to make room for a bleach green.—From this inquiry, the situation of the monastery of Tamlach Umhail, mentioned by Archdall as unknown, is fully ascertained.—In his "*Monasticon Hibernicum*," he says, the monastery of Tamlach Umhail was near lough Blisklau,

in the barony of Iveagh. His words are: "There was an ancient abbey there, wherein the feasts of the three saints, Nassad, Beoan, and Mellan, who flourished about the middle of the seventh century, were observed, on the 26th of October." He adds: "It is now unknown;" but in a note he says: "The lough, in ancient times, was called lough Bricreann, or Bricerne."—From extracts, ex Acta Sanctorum, per R. P. I. Johan. Colganum, p. 271, in notis, the situation of this religious house is pointed out, as appears from part of note 1st.—"Saint Mellanus de Tamlachta, who is *worshipped*, with the saints Beoan and Nassad, in the church of Tamlachta Umhail, near the lake Bricreann, in Ulster (Ultonia) 26th October;" and in note 19, p. 90, this Tamlachta Umhail is said to be in the country of Iveagh, in Ulster (Ivechia in Ultonia), near the lake Bricreann (juxta lacum Bricreanum) now in the name of Loughbrickland, is properly Lough breac lan, or of the speckled trouts, and it lies in Iveagh, in Ulster.* Besides, Dr. Shiel found the old name of this abbey to be Tamlachta Umhail; and it also appeared, that an annual feast of the three saints had kept up the tradition to the present times; all which proves, that the Tamlachta Umhail, mentioned by Archdall as unknown, must have been the abbey, in the precincts of which this golden

* *Breac*, in the Irish language, signifies both a trout; and speckled. It is the participle of the verb *breacann*, to chequer, and *lan* signifies either the scale of a fish, or fullness.—Shaw's Celtic Dictionary.

branch was found.—A number of detached pieces of antiquity were likewise in the Bishop of Dromore's possession; amongst these was a boat, or canoe, found in a bog, not far from the see-house of Dromore. This canoe is of an oak tree, the length about 13 feet, the breadth in the middle near three feet, with a ledge around of the same plank, which serves as a gunwhale.—His lordship had also two stone hatchets, such as were used before metals were found out; likewise several heads of spears of brass, of different sizes and forms.

Urns of various kinds have been found, some of them neatly worked and ornamented, others of ruder formation.—Two of the former kind, found in the parish of Garvaghy about two years ago, are thus described by the Rev. Thomas Beatty, who saw them: they were discovered on removing the stones of a cairn in the townland of Balliely. —“These urns were made of a yellowish clay, handsomely finished, and ornamented with festoons wrought in the clay around the centre: they were in a perfect state of preservation; one about 12 inches in diameter, and the other about half that size. They were each nearly half full of the ashes of the dead. They were found placed on smooth flags, defended on all sides by perpendicular stones, and a large one on the top.”—As the workmen wrought but a small way into the cairn, it is probable there are many such urns contained in the same place.

An earthen lamp, of curious form, was some

years ago dug up near Moira, at a considerable depth; and at Dundonald very considerable ruins have been found, 120 feet by 40; as also at Seafin, in the parish of Drumgoolan; probably some of the monasteries mentioned as unknown—Many other curious remains are met with in different places; but these may suffice to give the British public a view of the antiquities of this highly improved district of the Irish nation.

Linen Trade.

As the second volume of this work contains an ample, though concise, detail of the progress of this trade in Ulster, we deem it unnecessary to take further notice of it in this place, than merely to introduce the following allusion to its antiquity.—Dr. Leland, in his preliminary observations to the History of Ireland, affords a striking proof of the antiquity of the linen manufacture in Ireland. His words are: “Irish writers minutely describe the ancient dress of their country; the vest, the trowse, the mantle, the enormous *linen* sleeves dyed with saffron, &c.—And in a picture of the famous Earl of Tyrone, drawn in Spain, after his banishment, (which picture is said to be in the possession of an English nobleman,) one of his gallyglasses is represented as attending on him, exactly in the dress abovementioned.

... Gentleman,
... 17th century.
... house at
... 1635, and
... Durham, and
... through Edin-
... into Ire-
... Bel-
... Durnak, &c.

... Carrickfergus,
... Churches-
... proceeding from
... serves. You ride
... is a most
... bad weather,
... Carrick-
... and rider-
... and is the
... bath
... indeed
... where
... mother
... west
... and
... togeth
... it also

...
...
...

which he holds by lease, and which has still 40 years to come; the land is my Lord Chichester's, and the lease was made 46 years ago to Sir Moyses Hill, by the old Lord Chichester.—This plantation, it is said, doth yield him £1000 per annum.—Many Lancashire and Cheshire-men are here planted; they sit upon a *rack rent* (mark) and pay *five* or *six* shillings an acre for good ploughing land, which now is clothed with excellent good *corne*.

“From Belfast to Linsley (Lisna) Garvin, is about seven miles, and is a paradise in comparison of every part of Scotland.—Linsley Garvin is well seated, but neither the town or country thereabouts well planted, being almost woods and moorish, until you come to *Drommoare*; this town belongs to my Lord *Conoway*, who hath there a good *hainsome* house, but far short of both my Lord Chichester's houses; and this house is seated upon a hill, upon the side whereof is planted a garden and orchard, and at the bottom of the hill runneth a pleasant river (the Lagan) which abounds with salmon; though the land hereabouts be the poorest and barronest I have yet seen, yet may it be made good land with labour and *chardge*.—From Linsley Garvin to Drommoare is about seven miles; here we lodged at Mr. Haven's house, which is directly opposite to the Bishop of Drommoare his house, which is a little timber house of no great state nor receipt (reception).—His chaplain's name is Leigh, born in Manchester.—This a very dear house; eightpence ordinary for our-

selves, sixpence for our servants, and we were overcharged in *beere*.—This town as *itt* is the *seate* of the bishop of this *sea*, so he is lord of *itt*, and *itt* doth wholly belong unto him.—In this diocese, as Mr. Leigh his chaplain reported, is the worst part of the kingdome, and the poorest land and ground, yet the best church livings *bee*; there are no impropriations.

“ July 7th.—*Wee* left Drommoare and went to the *Newrie*, which is 16 miles; this is a most difficult way for a stranger to find out; herein *wee* wandered, and being lost fell among the Irish *townes*.—The Irish houses are the poorest cabins I have seen; erected in the middle of the fields and grounds, which they farm and rent.—This is a wild *countrie* *nott* inhabited, planted, nor inclosed, *yett itt* would *bee* *corne* if *itt* was husbanded.—I gave an Irishman a *groate* to bring us into the way, who led us like a villain directly out of the way, and *soe* left us; *soe* as by this deviation it was three *houre* before *wee* came to the *Newrie*.*—Much land there is about this *towne*, belonging to Mr. Bagnall, nothing well planted.—*Hee* hath a castle in this *towne*, but is for the most part resident *att* Green Castle; a great part of this *towne* is his, and *itt* is reported he hath £1000 or £1500 per annum in this *countrie*.†—This is but a poor *towne*, and is much Irish; and is navigable for

* We are a little surprised at this statement, so contrary to the proverbial hospitality of the Irish peasantry—but we must recollect the time.

† What a property in those times.

boates to come up unto with the tide.—Here *wee* baited at a good inn, the *signe* of the *Princess* arms; hence to Dundalk is eight mile; stonye, craggie, hilly, and uneven, but a way *itt* is nothing difficult to find.”

Some notion of the progress which Ireland (notwithstanding all her misfortunes) has made in arts and letters, since the gentleman alluded to wrote his tour, may be formed, by a comparison of the antiquated but forcible features of the country, contained in the above extract, with that which is now presented to the British public as a portrait of the same district in the 19th century.

Political circumstances of Downshire.

Downshire, we believe for many years past, has been regularly represented (*taking the whole for a part*) by the houses of Londonderry and Downshire.—Contested elections, had no doubt, been attended with much trouble and very serious expence to these noble families, and hence, as a mere matter of conjecture, we should not be surprized, if the representation of this county, has been since settled; and the expence and parade of contested elections (for a contest with these houses would be nothing more) precluded, by an amicable arrangement.—The representation of the county, by one or other of the members of these noble houses, being now a stationary article in the political history of the county, as such it will no doubt continue, while rank and property are the *essential* qualifications for a seat in parlia-

ment.—This, it is true, corresponds more exactly with our ideas of an aristocracy, than of a government composed of three estates; but public opinion signifies nothing in this case; and although many persons consider that this, we do not say constitutional principle, but fact of history, lies at the root of all our diseases, and penetrates, like a canker worm, into the very heart of the popular branch of our constitution; yet all that we shall say on the subject is—Gentlemen, why should not you, by your wealth and power, get a seat in parliament, as well as any other people—it is the fashion of the day—but now that you have got in—for God's sake, do some good, and think of somebody beside yourselves.

It has also, we believe for many years past, been a fact in the political history of this county, that one of those noble families has taken the popular side of the question, in the great political convention of the nation, while the other has uniformly devoted itself to the service of the crown.—To these respective sides of the question, we shall say nothing, for this book has not been published to promote political disputes; but shall close this history of Downshire, with an extension of our last admonitory remark to all members of parliament, “for God sake, do some good, and now that you have got in, no matter how, think of somebody beside yourselves.”

N.B. This last remark, may serve instead of a whole volume on the subject.

DIRECTORY TO THE **SEATS OF DOWNSHIRE,** WITH THEIR **RESPECTIVE POST TOWNS.**

Alphabetically arranged.

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Annadale - - | Belfast - - | Earl of Massarene. |
| Annaghnoon - - | Bannbridge - - | Richard Thomson, Esq. |
| Annaghclone - - | Dromore - - | Rector Dioc. Dromore. |
| Annahilt - - | Lisburn - - | Rector of Annahilt. |
| Anna's-cottage - - | Belfast - - | Christopher Strong, Esq. |
| Anne-borough - - | Castlewellan - - | James Moreland, Esq. |
| Anne-vale - - | Moirá - - | Joseph Magenis, Esq. |
| Ardglass-castle - - | Killough - - | William Ogilby, Esq. |
| Ardquin - - | Portaferry - - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Ardview - - | Killinghy - - | Thomas Potter, Esq. |
| Arnoe's-vale - - | Warren's-point - - | James Moore, Esq. |
| Aghaderig - - | Loughbrickland - - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Aughlafosher - - | Moirá - - | Jasper Waring, Esq. |
| Agnes-ville - - | Hillsborough - - | Mr. John Anderson. |
| Annacloy - - | Down - - | Mr. James M'Mordie. |
| Annacot-bridge - - | Ballynahinch - - | Mr. William Harrison. |
| Annaghmoole-hill - - | Ballynahinch - - | Mr. Edmund Dogherty. |
| Aquaduct - - | Moirá - - | Mr. John Fegan. |
| Aughnadromond - - | Moirá - - | Mr. John Berwick. |
| Ballyleidy-house - - | Newtown Ards - - | Lord Dufferin. |
| Bangor-castle - - | Bangor - - | Hon. R. Ward. |
| Blairis-lodge - - | Hillsborough - - | Sir George Atkinson. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Ballee - - | Down - - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Ballee-house - | Down - - | Richard Stitt, Esq. |
| Ballinaskea hill - | Loughbrickland | James Todd, Esq. |
| Ballow-house - | Bangor - - | W. S. Nicholson, Esq. |
| Ballyalloy - | Cumber - - | John Hamilton, Esq. |
| Ballyalton - | Down - - | John Magee, Esq. |
| Ballyculter - | Strangford - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Ballydown - | Bannbridge - | Hugh Dunbar, Esq. |
| Ballydown - | Bannbridge - | William Hudson, Esq. |
| Ballydrain - | Lisburn - - | J. Younghusband, Esq. |
| Ballydoogan - | Down - - | J. Auchenlick, Esq. |
| Ballyedmund - | Rostrevor - | Alexandar Stewart, Esq. |
| Ballyevy - - | Bannbridge - | George Crawford, Esq. |
| Ballyevy-house - | Bannbridge - | Walter Crawford, Esq. |
| Ballygallum - | Down - - | Thomas Read, Esq. |
| Ballygilbert - | Killough - | Charles Bigham, Esq. |
| Ballygorian - | Rathfriland - | James Lindsay, Esq. |
| Ballygowan - | Cumber - - | Thomas Orr, Esq. |
| Ballyhornan - | Down - - | Bernard Keon, Esq. |
| Ballyhasset - | Down - - | Alexander Gracey, Esq. |
| Ballykilbeg - | Down - - | William Johnston, Esq. |
| Ballykine-upper - | Ballinahinch - | Rev. Samuel Edgar. |
| Ballylintageh - | Hillsborough - | Samuel Cowan, Esq. |
| Ballylesson - | Lisburn - - | Rev. Marcus Falloon. |
| Ballylisbraden - | Cumber - - | William Cumming, Esq. |
| Ballymacnamea - | Portaferry - | John Donnan, Esq. |
| Ballymagannahy - | Castlewellan - | Patrick Duncan, Esq. |
| Ballymagin - | Moirs - - | John Waring, Esq. |
| Ballymenock - | Belfast - - | Cunningham Gregg, Esq. |
| Ballymoate - | Down - - | W. M'N. Graham, Esq. |
| Ballynester - | Newtown Ards - | Rev. Henry Dillon. |
| Ballyphilip - | Portaferry - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Ballyraer - - | Donaghadee - | Samuel D. Crumlin, Esq. |
| Ballysalla - | Newtown Ards - | James Savage, Esq. |
| Ballyvange - | Down - - | Overstreet Carson, Esq. |
| Ballyvernnon - | Bangor - - | John Heney, Esq. |
| Ballyvester - | Donaghadee - | John Cartherwood, Esq. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Ballyward - | Portaferry - | H. Boden, Esq. |
| Ballywilliam - | Donaghadee - | James Arbuckle, Esq. |
| Ballywilly - | Bangor - | William Jackson, Esq. |
| Ballywilwill - | Castlewellan | Rev. G. H. M'D. Johnston |
| Banford - | Rathfriland - | Henry Ogle, Esq. |
| Banford-house - | Gilford - | R. Jeffrey Nicholson, Esq. |
| Bangrove - | Rathfriland - | Miss Lindsay. |
| Banhill - | Rathfriland - | Unknown. |
| Banvale - | Rathfriland - | Miss O'Neil. |
| Banvale - | Gilford - | James Uprichard, Esq. |
| Banview - | Bannbridge - | Robert M'Bride, Esq. |
| Banville - | Bannbridge - | James Foot, Esq. |
| Bar-hall - | Portaferry - | John Doran, Esq. |
| Barholmes - | Cumber - | William Wilson, jun. Esq. |
| Barnfort - | Rathfriland - | Henry Ogle, Esq. |
| Barnhill - | Cumber - | Samuel Stone, Esq. |
| Beech-hill - | Belfast - | James Fetherstone, Esq. |
| Belhill - | Kilkeel - | John Warring, Esq. |
| Bellmount - | Belfast - | William Bateson, Esq. |
| Bellshill - | Down - | John Hutton, Esq. |
| Belvedere - | Lisburn - | Andrew Durham, Esq. |
| Belview - | Belfast - | Doctor Bell. |
| Belview - | Bangor - | Stewart Bell, Esq. |
| Belville - | Clough - | E. S. Ruthwin, Esq. |
| Belvoir-park - | Belfast - | Robert Bateson, Esq. |
| Bessrow - | Warren's-point | (V) Lieut.-Col. Moore. |
| Birch-grove - | Gilford - | Mrs. Birch. |
| Birch-hill - | Cumber - | James Birch, Esq. |
| Black-bridge - | Balinahinch - | Rev. William Moorhead. |
| Bleach-bank - | Kilkeel - | Rev. James M'Mahon. |
| Bloomfield - | Belfast - | Arthur Crawford, Esq. |
| Bone-castle - | Down - | James Hutchinson, Esq. |
| Boyle's-bason - | Moirs - | Messrs. Harvey and Co. |
| Bright - | Killough - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Bryan's-ford - | Castlewellan - | (V) C. Crawley, Esq. |
| Bunker's-hill - | Belfast - | J. T. Kennedy, Esq. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietor or Occupier. |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Buskill | Newry | Mrs. A. Taylor. |
| Bailie's-mill | Ballinahinch | Mr. William Martin. |
| Ballyatwood | Newtown Ards | Mrs. Hamill. |
| Bally-capal | Moirá | Mr. Thomas Bullock. |
| Ballykine lower | Ballinahinch | Mr. John Armstrong. |
| Ballyclander | Down | Mr. Thomas Nevills. |
| Ballycormack | Bangor | Mr. John Agnew. |
| Ballycreely | Cumber | Mr. John Montgomery. |
| Ballycreen | Ballinahinch | Mr. Richard Maitland. |
| Ballyeraghan | Bangor | Mr. George Russell. |
| Ballydargan | Down | Mr. John Wilson. |
| Ballydian | Ballinahinch | Mr. James Melville. |
| Ballydonnell | Down | Mr. Samuel Craig. |
| Ballygowan | Moirá | Mr. Andrew Miller. |
| Ballygreaney | Bangor | Mr. John Clancey. |
| Ballyhanwood | Cumber | Miss Montgomery. |
| Ballykeel | Cumber | Mr. John Richey. |
| Ballykeel | Moirá | Mr. Thomas Gardiner. |
| Ballykine lower | Ballinahinch | Mr. John Armstrong. |
| Ballyknock | Hillsborough | Mr. George Stannus. |
| Ballyleny | Moirá | Mr. D. Argo. |
| Ballymacarna | Ballinahinch | Mr. W. Arnett. |
| Ballymacarna | Ballinahinch | Mr. Robert Sturgeon. |
| Ballymacateer | Moirá | Mr. Ralph Richardson. |
| Ballymacbruden | Moirá | Mr. Hugh Fulton. |
| Ballymaglave | Ballinahinch | Mr. John Graham. |
| Ballymahonan | Moirá | Mr. James Sloane. |
| Ballymurphy | Ballinahinch | Mr. Martin Armstrong. |
| Ballymurray | Down | Mr. Samuel Dickson. |
| Ballyrainy | Cumber | Mr. David Jameson. |
| Ballyrenaa | Down | Mr. William Stockdale. |
| Ballyrush | Cumber | Mr. Robert Montgomery. |
| Ballyatrew | Down | Mr. William Russell. |
| Ballyvaston | Down | Mr. John Adair. |
| Ballyworfy | Hillsborough | Mr. William May. |
| Banogue-mills | Lurgan | Mr. John Murphy. |

| Name of the place | Post Town. | Proprietor or Occupier. |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Barrmea | Rathfriland | Mr. Terence Fegan. |
| Beech-hill | Newry | Mr. Taylor. |
| Begney | Ballinahinch | Mr. John M'Cashin. |
| Belfield | Ballinahinch | Mr. George Black. |
| Bellmount | Moira | Mr. George Langtry. |
| Belview | Rostevor | Mr. George Weir. |
| Bishop's-court | Down | Mr. A. Swail. |
| Blundel-hill | Hillsborough | Mr. Thomas Lethem. |
| Bootia | Cumber | Mr. John Malcomb. |
| Bottear | Moira | Mr. John Craig. |
| Bovenast | Loughbrickland | Mr. James Mollan. |
| Bowtown | Newton Ards | Mr. William Bailie. |
| Broom-hedge | Lisburn | Mr. John Bennett. |
| Burleigh's-mill | Moira | Mr. William Browne. |
| Burren | Ballinahinch | Mr. Alexander Read. |
| Castlewellan-house | Castlewellan | Earl Annesley. |
| Castle-ward | Strangford | Lord Viscount Bangor. |
| Cabin-dale | Clough | Rev. Richard Walsley. |
| Cabin-valley | Newtown Ards | Mrs. Porter. |
| Cabra | Rathfriland | Doctor Daly. |
| Cargagh | Down | John Bell, Esq. |
| Carleton-house | Lisburn | Cornelius Carleton, Esq. |
| Carnacaw | Down | John Williams, Esq. |
| Carnasure | Cumber | James Andrews, Esq. |
| Carnbane-house | Hillsborough | Joseph Pollock, Esq. |
| Carnmeen | Newry | James Coulter, Esq. |
| Carrodore | Donaghadee | D. Cromelin, Esq. |
| Castle-hill | Belfast | Joseph Gardner, Esq. |
| Cattogs | Cumber | Andrew Maxwell, Esq. |
| Charleville | Bannbridge | James C. Mulligan, Esq. |
| Charleville | Belfast | Charles Brett, Esq. |
| Cherry-valley | Cumber | Nich. De Lacherois, Esq. |
| Clarkhill | Castlewellan | William Murland, Esq. |
| Clentogh | Hillsborough | Rev. — Thompson. |
| Clifton | Belfast | William Halliday, Esq. |
| Cloghy | Strangford | Captain John Hopkins. |
| Clonallen | Warren's-point | Rector Diocese Down. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Clonallen-house - | Warren's-point | Rev. John Davis. |
| Clonduff - - | Rathfriland - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Colenacran - - | Loughbrickland | W. E. Reilly, Esq. |
| Conbrook - - | Belfast - - | John Martin, Esq. |
| Conlig - - | Bangor - - | Joseph Miller, Esq. |
| Cottage - - | Saintfield - - | Rev. H. Hubert Wolsley. |
| Course-green - - | Gilford - - | Robert Newsom, Esq. |
| Courtney-hill - | Newry - - | C. Courtney, Esq. |
| Craigavad - - | Belfast - - | Arthur Forbes, Esq. |
| Crawford's-bourn - | Bangor - - | (V) John Crawford, Esq. |
| Crossan - - | Warren's-point | Rev. James M'Cormack. |
| Culcavey - - | Hillsborough | Nathaniel Monk, Esq. |
| Cultra - - | Belfast - - | Hugh Kennedy, Esq. |
| Cumber - - | Ballinahinch - | Messrs. A. & F. Johnston. |
| Cahard - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Leslie. |
| Carnacalie - - | Down - - | Mr. Charles Hamilton. |
| Carnalbana - - | Moirs - - | Mr. Ralph Bullock. |
| Carnhane - - | Hillsborough - | Mr. Robert J. Fowler. |
| Cascum - - | Loughbrickland | Mr. David M'Connell. |
| Casey's-bridge - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Henry Casey. |
| Castle-aspire - | Cumber - - | Mr. John Clarke. |
| Castle-averry - | Cumber - - | Mr. Henry Ferguson. |
| Castle-screen - | Down - - | Mr. J. Carson. |
| Clare - - | Moirs - - | Mr. Richard Owen. |
| Clentagh - - | Down - - | Mr. James M'Dowell. |
| Clentagh - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Johnston. |
| Clentinagoolan - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. James M'Gowan. |
| Clogher - - | Down - - | Mr. John West. |
| Clover-hill - - | Loughbrickland | Mr. George M'Clelland. |
| Common-hall - | Newton Ards - | Mr. John Ferguson. |
| Corby-rock - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Shields. |
| Corcreeny - - | Hillsborough - | Mr. John M'Elevey. |
| Cottogs - - | Cumber - - | Mr. Andrew Maxwell. |
| Cott-town - - | Bangor - - | Mr. Arthur Campbell. |
| Creevy-argan - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. James Davis. |
| Creevy-tenant - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Hugh Dunlop. |
| Cullentra - - | Cumber - - | Mr. Richard Henry. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Castle Ards - | Donaghadee - | N. de la C. Cromelin, Esq. |
| Cuppage-hall - | Hillsborough - | Mr. John Green. |
| Donlady - - | Belfast - - | Lady Annesley. |
| Dromore-house - | Dromore - - | Bishop of Dromore. |
| Dairy-house - - | Newtown Ards | Rev. Joseph Osburne. |
| David's-field - | Portaferry - | Robert Dalzell, Esq. |
| Demi-ville - - | Lisburn - - | William Shaw, Esq. |
| Deneight - - | Lisburn - - | John Hill, Esq. |
| Derrylacka - - | Newry - - | John Gordon, Esq. |
| Derry-more - - | Belfast - - | Thomas Verner, Esq. |
| Dobson's-lodge - | Warren's-point | W. Dobson, Esq. |
| Donaghaguy - - | Warren's-point | Rev. Samuel Arnold. |
| Donaghcloney - | Bannbridge - | Rector Diocese Dromore. |
| Donaghmore - | Newry - - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Donaghmore-house | Newry - - | Rev. D. Smyth. |
| Donover - - | Newtown Ards | Alexander Allen, Esq. |
| Downshire-road - | Newry - - | W. Lang, Esq. |
| Dromantine - - | Newry - - | Arthur Ennis, Esq. |
| Dromara - - | Dromore - - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Dromballyroney - | Rathfriland - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Drombane - - | Moirá - - | Ralph Bullock, Esq. |
| Drombeg - - | Lisburn - - | Rector Diocese Connor. |
| Dromboe - - | Belfast - - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Dromerdan - - | Portadown - | Alexander Donning, Esq. |
| Dromgath - - | Rathfriland - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Dromgoland - - | Rathfriland - | Rector Diocese Dromore |
| Dromnabreeze - | Lurgan - - | Matthew Studdart, Esq. |
| Dromnahall - | Ballinahinch - | James Martin, Esq. |
| Dundonald - - | Cumber - - | (V) Rec. Diocese Down |
| Dunsfort - - | Killough - - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Dame-ville - - | Lisburn - - | Mr. William Shaw. |
| Derry - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Shaw. |
| Derrydrumuck - | Loughbrickland | Mr. Robert Henry. |
| Derry-lerry-derry - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Francis Johnston. |
| Dree - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John M'Kenny. |
| Dromaghlis-haw - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Clelland. |
| Dromgavelin - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. James Chambers. |

| Name of the place | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Dromgiven - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. George Smyth. |
| Dromkeeragh - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Middleton. |
| Dromnaticonnor - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Copeland. |
| Dromo - - - | Moirá - - | Mr. Bell. |
| Dromanad - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Davey. |
| Dunbeg - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Robert M'Ilwain. |
| Echlin's-grove - | Donaghadee - | Unknown. |
| Echlin-ville - - | Kircubbin - - | John Echlin, Esq. |
| Eden - - - | Newry - - | Mrs. Bell. |
| Edenderry - - | Lisburn - - | Alexander Wilson, Esq. |
| Edenderry - - | Belfast - - | Charles Dunlap, Esq. |
| Eden-vale - - | Hillsborough - | Rev. Thomas M'Clure. |
| Eden-vale - - | Dromore - - | William Campbell, Esq. |
| Eglantine - - | Hillsborough - | Hugh Moore, Esq. |
| Eliza-hill - - | Banbridge - - | Robert Kelly, Esq. |
| Eliza-valley - - | Banbridge - - | Rev. John Rutherford. |
| Ellen-vale - - | Newry - - | D. Hening, Esq. |
| Elm-field - - | Gilford - - | Rev. John Johnston. |
| Ennishargie - - | Kircubbin - - | John Allen, Esq. |
| Edendarriff - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. W. Cumming. |
| Edenmore - - | Moirá - - | Mr. Joseph Berry. |
| Fair-view - - | Gilford - - | Charles Frazer, Esq. |
| Farm-hill - - | Belfast - - | Hugh Kennedy, Esq. |
| Farnfad - - | Down - - | John Scott, Esq. |
| Ferry-quarter - | Strangford - | Nicholas Price, Esq. |
| Finnabrogue - - | Down - - | J. Waring Maxwell, Esq. |
| Florida - - | Killinchy - - | David Gordon, Esq. |
| Flower-hill - - | Ballinahinch - | Thomas Bamber, Esq. |
| Fort-Edward - - | Rathfriland - | Edward Caddell, Esq. |
| Fort-William - - | Moirá - - | Rev. — Moffett. |
| Fox-lodge - - | Belfast - - | William Fox, Esq. |
| Farm-hill - - | Rathfriland - | Mr. John Adams. |
| Flat-field - - | Hillsborough - | Mr. James Megarry. |
| Frazer's-stores - | Moirá - - | Mr. Patrick Frazer. |
| Freestone-quarry - | Moirá - - | Mr. Samuel Lyburn. |
| Gill-hall - - | Dromore - - | Countess of Clanwilliam |
| Gilford-house - | Gilford - - | Sir W. Johnston, Bart. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Gawn - - - | Rostrevor - | Colonel Ross. |
| Gargory - - | Rathfriland - | John Ingram, Esq. |
| Garvaghy - - | Dromore - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Gart-ross - - | Moir - - | Mrs. M'Kinley. |
| Glastry - - | Kircubbin - | Henry Savage, Esq. |
| Glen - - - | Newry - | — Innes, Esq. |
| Glen-vale - - | Newry - - | Isaac Glenny, Esq. |
| Gospel-ville - - | Banbridge - | John M'Clelland, Esq. |
| Grace-hall - - | Lurgan - - | Thomas Douglass, Esq. |
| Gray-abbey - - | Newtown Ards | (V) Curate Dioc. Down. |
| Green-field - - | Rathfriland - | Rev. W. Fletcher. |
| Green-hill - - | Banbridge - | Nicholas Magin, Esq. |
| Green-park - - | Rostrevor - | Francis Carleton, Esq. |
| Green-ville - - | Belfast - | John H. Houston, Esq. |
| Greenwood-farm - | Clough - - | John Scott, Esq. |
| Greenwood-park - | Newry - - | Ross Thompson, Esq. |
| Grennan - - - | Loughbrickland | Arch. Hawthorne, Esq. |
| Grove-field - - | Belfast - - | Robert Telfair, Esq. |
| Growell - - - | Hillsborough - | Andrew Cowan, Esq. |
| Grynan-house - | Newry - - | — Skelton, Esq. |
| Galley - - - | Down - - | Mr. C. Jennings. |
| Gartna-money - | Moir - - | Mr. W. Rutherford. |
| Glass-drummon - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. W. Armstrong. |
| Glen - - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Davis. |
| Grallagh - - - | Rathfriland - | Mr. William Swan. |
| Grange. - - - | Down - - | Mr. John Henry. |
| Green-brook - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Andrew Kirkpatrick. |
| Greg-lougher - | Moir - - | Mr. George Simpson. |
| Grynan - - - | Newry - - | Mr. Campbell. |
| Guiness - - - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Andrew Blain. |
| Haye-park - - - | Belfast - - | Marquis of Donegall. |
| Hillsborough-castle | Hillsborough - | Marquis of Downshire. |
| Hamoro - - - | Lisburn - | Major Gayer. |
| Harmony-hill - | Lisburn - | Mess. R. & J. Wolfenden. |
| Harmony-hill - | Newtown Ards | Rev. John Watson. |
| Harrymount - | Rostrevor - | Henry Courtney, Esq. |
| Harts-fort - - | Kilkeel - | Thomas Pottinger, Esq. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Hazel-bank - | Banbridge - | Henry Hamilton, Esq. |
| Heases-row - | Warren's-point - | (V) John Mayne, Esq. |
| Henry-hill - | Banbridge - | John Walker, Esq. |
| Herds-town - | Donaghadee - | Alexander M'Minn, Esq. |
| Hill-town - | Rathfriland - | (V) Rev. H. Boyd. |
| Hollymount - | Down - | Francis Savage, Esq. |
| Holly-park - | Killinchy - | Rev. A. H. Trail. |
| Holly-wood - | Belfast - | (V) Cur. Dioc. Down. |
| Homra-house - | Hillsborough - | Marcus Corry, Esq. |
| Hall's-grove - | Moirá - | Mr. Hall. |
| Harmony-hill - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Davidson. |
| Hill-hall - | Lisburn - | Mr. John Turner. |
| Holiday's-bridge - | Hillsborough - | Mr. James Woods. |
| Jane-ville - | Killough - | Thos. Tippen Smyth, Esq. |
| Inch - - | Down - | Rec. Dioc. Down. |
| Island-derry - | Dromore - | Major Waddell. |
| Jane-brook - | Kilkeel - | Mr. James Marmion. |
| Islands - | Newtown Ards - | Miss Rowan. |
| Kilmorey-house | Kilkeel - | Viscount Kilmorey. |
| Kilbroney - | Rostrevor - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Kilcliff - - | Down - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Kilcoe - - | Castlewellan - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Killery - - | Saintfield - | Vicar Diocese Down. |
| Killileagh-castle - | Killileagh - | Archd. Ham. Rowan, Esq. |
| Kate M'Key's Bridge | Rathfriland - | Mrs. Kerr. |
| Kilmegan - | Castlewellan - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Kilmore - - | Down - | (V) Rec. Diocese Down. |
| Kilmud - - | Killinchy - | Vicar Diocese Down. |
| Kilwarlin-cottage - | Moirá - | Rev. D. W. M'Mullon. |
| King-hill - | Rathfriland - | John Newell, Esq. |
| Kircassock - | Lurgan - | John Christie, Esq. |
| Knock - | Belfast - | Christopher Salmon, Esq. |
| Knockbreda - | Belfast - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Killineather - | Cumber - | Mr. James Colville. |
| Killigoney - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Magee. |
| Kilminiogue - | Moirá - | Mr. M. Huett. |
| Kilwarlin - | Moirá - | Mr. James Magerry. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Loyalty-farm - | Kilkeel - | Lieut. Col. G. Matthews. |
| Lamb's-island - | Banbridge - | Rev. John Sherrard. |
| Larch-field - | Lisburn - | Daniel Mussenden, Esq. |
| Larch-hill - | Dromore - | William Cowan, Esq. |
| Lakefield - | Lisburn - | Mrs. Stewart. |
| Lark-hill - | Ballinahinch - | James Watson, Esq. |
| Laurence-town | Banbridge - | H. L. Montgomery, Esq. |
| Leg-more - | Moira - | James Arbuthnot, Esq. |
| Lenaderg-house - | Banbridge - | Rawdon Hautenville, Esq. |
| Levens - | Rostrevor - | John Bellingham, Esq. |
| Linen-hill - | Banbridge - | Alexander Lowry, Esq. |
| Lisize - | Rathfriland - | Unknown. |
| Lis-nabreen - | Belfast - | H. S. Harvey, Esq. |
| Lis-nashanker - | Moira - | Rev. John Mulligan. |
| Lodge - | Rostrevor - | Rev. Thomas Ross. |
| Loughadian - | Loughbrickland - | John Fivey, Esq. |
| Loughan Island - | Down - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Loughorn - | Newry - | J. and S. Martin, Esqrs. |
| Lurganaville - | Moira - | Rev. William Moffett. |
| Lurganecanthy - | Warren's Point - | William Savage, Esq. |
| Lis-nacreevy - | Rathfriland - | Mr. Joseph Frazer. |
| Listooder - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. James M'Roberts. |
| Loop - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Hans Russell. |
| Loughahry - | Hillsborough - | Mr. William Magill. |
| Loughearn - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John M'Kibbin. |
| Lyon's-bridge - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Wilson. |
| Mount-Stewart - | Newtown Ards - | Marquis of Londonderry. |
| Maghera - | Castlewellan - | (V) John Lindsay, Esq. |
| Maghera-droll - | Ballinahinch - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Maghera-hamlet - | Ballinahinch - | Rev. Skef. Thompson. |
| Maghera-hinch - | Moira - | James Bateman, Esq. |
| Maghera-lin - | Moira - | Rector Diocese Dromore. |
| Magher-ally - | Banbridge - | (V) Vic. Dioc. Dromore. |
| Marlborough - | Down - | James Crawford, Esq. |
| Marle-field - | Portaferry - | James Dalgell, Esq. |
| Mary-mount - | Banbridge - | John Hickey, Esq. |
| Mary-vale - | Newry - | William Crow, Esq. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Maxwell's-court | Cumber | William M. Wilson, Esq. |
| Milecross-lodge | Newtown Ards | Robert Bradshaw, Esq. |
| Mill-bank | Loughbrickland | William Shegog, Esq. |
| Mill-mount | Banbridge | William Hayes, Esq. |
| Mill-town | Banbridge | Thomas Crawford, Esq. |
| Mill-town lodge | Banbridge | John Blizard, Esq. |
| Mill-view | Saintfield | Rev. Henry Sampson. |
| Moate | Cumber | Mrs. M'Fadden. |
| Money-rea | Cumber | (V) Rev. — Blakeley. |
| Mont-alto | Ballinahinch | David Kerr, Esq. |
| Moore-field | Lurgan | Conway Blizard, Esq. |
| Mount Alexander | Cumber | Hugh M'Mahon, Esq. |
| Mount Ida | Dromore | George Douglas, Esq. |
| Mount Kearney | Newry | James Parker, Esq. |
| Mount-panther | Clough | Hugh Moore, Esq. |
| Mount-pleasant | Gilford | George Darley, Esq. |
| Mount-pleasant | Belfast | — Jackson, Esq. |
| Mount-Pottinger | Belfast | James Ferguson, Esq. |
| Mount-prospect | Rathfriland | Unknown. |
| Mourne-park | Kilkeel | John Moore, Esq. |
| Moyallen | Gilford | T. C. Wakefield, Esq. |
| Moygannon | Banbridge | John Wright, Esq. |
| Mullagh-more | Rathfriland | R. R. Rowan, Esq. |
| Murlough-house | Clough | Matthew Lyne, Esq. |
| Music-hall | Bandonbridge | Hugh Mulholland, Esq. |
| Myrtle-field | Lisburn | Thomas Carlton, Esq. |
| Maghera-lone | Ballinahinch | Mr. Thomas Neilson. |
| Marshall's-town | Down | Mr. John West. |
| Mary-brook | Ballinahinch | Mr. John Wilkes. |
| Mary-mount | Belfast | Mr. William H. Steele. |
| Mason-bridge | Ballinahinch | Mr. James Cleland. |
| Mather's-fort | Lurgan | Mr. Edward Lunn. |
| Maze-course | Hillsborough | Mr. Samuel Bradberry. |
| Mill-hill | Ballinahinch | Mr. Thomas Johnston. |
| Mill-vale | Hillsborough | Mr. Arch. Henderson. |
| Money-slane | Rathfriland | Mr. Robert Boyd. |
| Mont-alto | Ballymena | Mr. M. Murray. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Moore-hall - | Killinchy - | Mr. James M'Kear. |
| Mount-caper - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Macubrie. |
| Mount-hill - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Carlisle. |
| Mullagh-drin - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Isaac Singer. |
| Munninabane - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Henry M'Cormick. |
| Narrow-water - | Warren's Point - | (V) Robert Irwin, Esq. |
| Narrow-water-house | Warren's Point - | Roger Hall, Esq. |
| Nun's-quarter - | Kircubbin - | James Allen, Esq. |
| Nursery-ville - | Cumber - | John Harvey, Esq. |
| Nahor's-quay - | Moirá - | Mr. Frazer. |
| New-mills - | Gilford - | Mr. John M'Murrin. |
| New-port - | Hillsborough - | Mr. Jeremiah Harvey. |
| Ormeau - | Belfast - | Marquis of Donegall. |
| Oakley - | Down - | Hon. & Rev. W. Annesley. |
| Orange-lodge - | Ballinahinch - | Capt. John Macubrie. |
| Orr-field - | Hillsborough - | Messrs. W. and J. Orr. |
| Oglesgrove - | Hillsborough - | Mr. George Davis. |
| Paper-vale - | Rathfriland - | Robert Todford, Esq. |
| Parson's-hall - | Portaferry - | Rowland Savage, Esq. |
| Parson's-hall - | Rathfriland - | Rev. T. Tighe. |
| Pine-hill - | Lisburn - | Charles Casement, Esq. |
| Portaferry-house - | Portaferry - | Andrew Nugent, Esq. |
| Portavoe - | Donaghadee - | David Kerr, Esq. |
| Prospect - | Cumber - | Henry Savage, Esq. |
| Prospect - | Kilkeel - | Alexander Chesney, Esq. |
| Prospect - | Saintfield - | Robert Wilson, Esq. |
| Purdys-burn - | Belfast - | (V) Hill Wilson, Esq. |
| Perry-mount - | Moirá - | Mr. James Arnold. |
| Porter's-bridge - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Porter. |
| Quilly - | Dromore - | George Vaughan, Esq. |
| Rath-gill - | Bangor - | Alex. M'Cullough, Esq. |
| Rath-geale-house - | Bangor - | James Clealand, Esq. |
| Rath-mullen - | Clough - | Vicar Diocese Down. |
| Redmon - | Down - | Arthur Johnson, Esq. |
| Richmond-lodge - | Belfast - | Francis Turnley, Esq. |
| Ring-haddy - | Killinchy - | Cha. S. Hawthorn, Esq. |
| Rockmount - | Killinchy - | Rev. James Hewitson. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Rock-savage - | Portaferry - | Unknown. |
| Rock-vale - | Loughbrickland | Robert Boyd, Esq. |
| Rose-hill - | Hillsborough | George Crichard, Esq. |
| Rose-hill - | Dromore - | Hans Fairly, Esq. |
| Rose-mount - | Newtown Ards | Rev. Hugh Montgomery. |
| Rosetta - | Belfast - | Foster Coulson, Esq. |
| Rosetta - | Warren's Point | Rev. Holt Warren. |
| Rough-fort - | Banbridge - | Jacob Boake, Esq. |
| Rough-fort - | Banbridge - | John Maine, Esq. |
| Releagh - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. G. — M'Robert. |
| Rocks-hill - | Hillsborough - | Mr. William Archer. |
| Rock-vale - | Down - | Mr. E. Humphrey. |
| Rock-view - | Newry - | Mr. Black. |
| Rose-hall - | Gilford - | Mr. David Stewart. |
| Rose-vale - | Belfast - | Mr. Joseph Stephens. |
| Round-hill - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Alexander Brown. |
| Rural-lodge - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Daniel Mullan. |
| Saint Andrew's - | Kircubbin - | Vicar Diocese Down. |
| Saintfield-house - | Saintfield - | Nicholas Price, Esq. |
| Saul - | Down - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Scarva - | Loughbrickland | (V) Rob. Hamilton, Esq. |
| Scarvagh-house - | Loughbrickland | J. Lushington Reilly, Esq. |
| Sea-ford-house - | Clough - | Colonel Matthew Forde. |
| Sea-patrick - | Banbridge - | Vicar Diocese Dromore. |
| Sea-view - | Warren's Point - | Dr. Mullan. |
| Shamrock-lodge - | Belfast - | William Boyd, Esq. |
| Shandy-hall - | Rathfriland - | Charles R. Christian, Esq. |
| Sheep-bridge - | Newry - | William Gordon, Esq. |
| Skeogh-house - | Dromore - | W. C. Heron, Esq. |
| Solitude - | Cumber - | Robert Gamble, Esq. |
| Solitude - | Banbridge - | Thomas M'Clelland, Esq. |
| Spire-hill - | Hillsborough - | Lieut. William Cowan. |
| Spring-field - | Newtown Ards - | Rev. James M'Cullough. |
| Spring-field - | Lurgan - | R. & T. Richardson, Esqrs. |
| Spring-field - | Dromore - | Rev. Boughy W. Dolling. |
| Spring-mount - | Dromore - | James M'Cully, Esq. |
| Spring-vale - | Newtown Ards - | Geo. Matthews, jun. Esq. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Stramore - | Gilford - | John Christy, Esq. |
| Stramore-house - | Gilford - | John Nicholson, Esq. |
| Straw-hall - | Moira - | William Boyce, Esq. |
| Summer-field - | Belfast - | Robert Gordon, Esq. |
| Summer-hill - | Kircubbin - | Major Boyd. |
| Summer-seat - | Kilkeel - | Rev. Lucas Warring. |
| Sally-gardens - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Reid. |
| Scadan - | Down - | Mr. Henry Torney. |
| Sea-fin - | Rathfriland - | Mr. William Quin. |
| Shank-hill - | Loughbrickland - | Mr. James Nesbitt. |
| Shannon-grove - | Kilkeel - | Mr. Francis Moore. |
| Spa - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Hugh Boyd. |
| Spa-lodge - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Tannihill. |
| Spencer's-bridge - | Moira - | Mr. James Magerry. |
| Spring-field - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Isaac M'Dowell. |
| Spring-field - | Dromore - | Mrs. Waddell. |
| Spring-hall - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. William Beedam. |
| Struel - | Down - | Mr. James Hastings. |
| Tullamore-park - | Castlewellan - | Earl of Roden. |
| Temple-gowran - | Newry - | J. Gordon, Esq. |
| Terela - | Killough - | (V) Rec. Diocese Down. |
| Terela-house - | Killough - | Rev. George Hamilton. |
| Thomas-town - | Portaferry - | John Downing, Esq. |
| Thorn-hill - | Belfast - | James Joyce, Esq. |
| Town-view - | Belfast - | Samuel Brown, Esq. |
| Trench - | Lisburn - | William Malcolm, Esq. |
| Tullamore - | Loughbrickland - | Samuel Ferguson, Esq. |
| Tollymore - | Castlewellan - | John Keon, Esq. |
| Tullycarn - | Dromore - | John Magill, Esq. |
| Tullygirvan-house | Saintfield - | David Wilson, Esq. |
| Tullyhubbert - | Cumber - | Robert Wilson, Esq. |
| Tullylish - | Gilford - | Rev. Charles Hamilton. |
| Tullynakill - | Killinchy - | Vicar Diocese Down. |
| Turf-lodge - | Belfast - | Colonel M'Caskett. |
| Tully-quilly - | Rathfriland - | Stafford Wellock, Esq. |
| Tabermoney - | Down - | Mr. Robert Martin. |
| Teeven-darriif - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Robert Croskeerrey. |

| Name of the place. | Post Town. | Proprietors or Occupiers. |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Thorn-brook - | Moirá - | Mr. Thomas English. |
| Trooper-field - | Lisburn - | Mr. Robert Oliver. |
| Tullinacree - | Down - | Mr. Hugh Taylor. |
| Tullyard - | Moirá - | Mr. John Agnew. |
| Tullyloob - | Moirá - | Mr. Thomas Browne. |
| Vaughan-ville - | Dromore - | George Vaughan, Esq. |
| Vian's-town - | Down - | Rev. B. Ward. |
| Unicarvel - | Cumber - | Robert Cumming, Esq. |
| Union-lodge - | Loughbrickland | William Fivey, Esq. |
| Ver-mout - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Thomas Johnston. |
| Villa - | Dromore - | John Vaughan, Esq. |
| Walsh's-town - | Down - | Rich. F. Anderson, Esq. |
| Warring-field - | Moirá - | Jasp. & S. Warring, Esqrs. |
| Warringsford - | Dromore - | H. W. Knox, Esq. |
| West-brook - | Belfast - | Rev. Edward May. |
| White-hill - | Banbridge - | John Waugh, Esq. |
| Will-mount - | Lisburn - | John Stewart, Esq. |
| Willow-mount - | Ballinahinch - | Rev. John M'Clelland. |
| Witter - | Portaferry - | Rector Diocese Down. |
| Woburn - | Donaghadee - | John Dunbar, Esq. |
| Wood-bank - | Gilford - | William Dawson, Esq. |
| Wood-ford - | Dromore - | James Black, Esq. |
| Wood-house - | Rostrevor - | Trevor Corry, Esq. |
| Wood-park - | Castlewellan - | John Law, Esq. |
| Wood-vale - | Bangor - | Rev. Hugh Woods. |
| Wood-view - | Banbridge - | George Cuppage, Esq. |
| Wood-ville - | Banbridge - | John Chambers, Esq. |
| Wood-ville - | Loughbrickland | John Howe, Esq. |
| Whin-grove - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. Daniel M'Neill. |
| White-hall - | Lisburn - | Mr. John Boomer. |
| White-water-mill | Kilkeel - | Mr. W. C. Emmerson. |
| Wills-grove - | Ballinahinch - | Mr. John Moorhead. |

CHAPTER IV.

Peasantry improvement society.—Tithes.—Ulster provincial dialect.—A specimen of its rural inns.—Influence of the linen manufacture upon the character of the province.—Description of the Basaltic area of Antrim, as an introduction to the tour and survey of that county.

Peasantry improvement society.

BEFORE we enter upon an examination of the Antrim district, which comes next in the order of our tour, we beg to pause at the threshold of that section of the country, for the purpose of directing the reader's attention to an institution frequently noticed in this work; but which, from its importance to the interests of Ireland, appears to us to claim a few observations in a distinct and separate section of this volume.

In proposing a peasantry improvement society, as one among many effectual remedies for the evils with which Ireland is afflicted, we are not ignorant that we stand open to the ridicule of those English advocates of reform, who resisted Mr. Owen's most benevolent scheme for the improvement of his country, on the principle of the inadequacy of the remedy to the disease.—We know these gentlemen entertain an opinion that the miseries of the people flow from a system of

taxation which deprives the labourer of half the produce of his industry, and that any attempt to improve his condition by social institutions, is but skinning over the wound, while the ulcer remains beneath—but whatever truth there may be in this opinion, as it applies to the peasantry of England, it is not applicable to the same class in Ireland (as we shall endeavour presently to shew) with the exception perhaps of the tithe tax, which coming into perpetual contact with the existence of the peasant, maintains a most injurious and impolitic warfare with his interests and passions—and therefore, while truth obliges us to confess that the population of England cannot but be deeply affected by that enormous debt (and consequently enormous load of taxation which rests upon the country) and that a reform in the representation of that country, is probably the only mean by which the burdens of England will be reduced to the level of its resources; still we obstinately maintain that this is not a question for the peasantry of Ireland—that parliamentary reform would produce no alteration in their circumstances, unless it accomplished at the same time an alteration in the character and sentiments of those people, by whom the peasantry are employed and paid; and consequently that to improve their condition, a periodical examination of their character and circumstances, in an open assembly of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, of every parish (formed into an association for that express purpose) is the only instrument by which their case will come pro-

perly before the public, will be brought into competition with the abuses which degrade, oppress, and provoke them to rebellion—and hence to make peasantry improvement societies (where the facts of Irish rural history can be examined upon the spot) the rule and fashion of the country, would be of the greatest importance to the peace of Ireland, to the promotion of its civilization, and to the British government itself; which, by the disturbances perpetually taking place in that province of the empire, is obliged to incur the expenses of a war establishment to maintain its peace—and which from time immemorial it has failed to accomplish—even with all the expenses of this martial system.

Let us now proceed to the facts on which we found our opinion, that a peasantry improvement society is still more essential to the peace of Ireland than even parliamentary reform.

And first.—Scotland does not enjoy the benefits of parliamentary reform, and yet its peasantry are industrious, peaceful, intelligent, and comparatively happy.—Wales does not enjoy the benefits of a parliamentary reform—and yet its peasantry are tranquil and contented.—For this difference then there must be some adequate cause.—And yet this cause is neither the presence nor the absence of parliamentary reform.—What is it?—First, Scotland is not harrassed with those heart-burning contentions between the clergy and the people, of which tithes are the prolific source to the wretched peasantry of Ireland, and partially so even to the

liberal and enlightened clergy, whose maintenance is now dependent on the system which secures destruction to their ill fated country.—Secondly—the clergy of Scotland are united with their people in one bond of civil and religious union.—In Ireland this cannot be accomplished in its whole extent—but by that respectable provision for the clergy of all classes, to which the ecclesiastical estates of Ireland are more than adequate, the clergy and people of all classes can be united in one civil bond of union; and in connection with that complete toleration of religion, which the country happily enjoys, this wise political regulation would be the surest pledge of the future peace and prosperity of the country.—This, it is true, could not be accomplished, in its whole extent, by a peasantry improvement society—but this society could make it an object of petition to the legislature—and this legislature, without any alteration of its constitution, could grant a boon so evidently advantageous to the country, and so well calculated to save an immense expenditure to the state.—If the event however shall prove, that no such boon will be conceded to Ireland by the existing government, however loudly it may be called for by the circumstances of that province, we shall then renounce our opinion: and acknowledge, that without parliamentary reform, the distractions of Ireland are sealed, and must be coeval with her existence as a colony under the existing system.—Until the state of the peasantry of Ireland, however, shall be as fully and fairly brought before parlia-

ment, as the much less important claims of Catholic gentlemen to be admitted to an equal participation with their Protestant fellow subjects in the power and property of the state; and as fully and fairly resisted as this claim appears to have been, so far; we shall not subscribe to that doctrine of our brother reformers, which goes to assert, that benevolent institutions can operate no salutary change in the circumstances of a country, until the legislature of that country has purged the constitution of all political abuses.—It is therefore our very humble opinion (whatever may be the political abuses of a country) that the benevolent inhabitants of that country should labour to reduce the quantum of its misery, and to increase the measure of its happiness, by salutary social institutions—and if there are any persons who think otherwise, and whose abilities are exerted to withhold from the existing government the support of those benevolent institutions, in order that a corrupt system (as they esteem it) may sink into ruin by its own weight; we beg to inform these gentlemen (if this work shall be thought worthy of their notice) that our political philosophy does not carry us to these sublime heights; that if Mr. Owen was now labouring in England for the establishment of his most excellent and benevolent system, we should support him with all our might; and that in our native country, the formation of a parochial association of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, for the consideration of those means, by which all classes of the country may be happily united (agreeable to

the parental counsel of the king) and the peasantry relieved from a load of suffering, and gradually advanced in the scale of intelligence and comfort, should, in like manner, command our most decided assistance, if the fate of war should happen to throw into our hands, the means of contributing to the promotion of so invaluable an object.

Again.—Supposing that parliamentary reform has been obtained, and even accomplished a reduction of the expenses of the state and the burdens of the people, let us examine how far the miseries of the peasantry of Ireland would be mitigated, and their circumstances amended, by this happy improvement in the legislative circumstances of the empire.

In pursuing this question to its source, let us examine how the peasantry of Ireland has been circumstanced in the most prosperous periods of the history of that country.—And first—what periods of time may be considered as deserving this appellation?—Not those surely in which the country was covered with monasteries and the chiefs of petty clans (if the people, at that time, were any thing more than the slaves of their feudal chiefs, and the working servants of the priesthood, we should be glad to see the genuine records of their freedom) not, while the incursions of the Danes and English kept the nation in a state of perpetual fermentation, and dyed the fruitful vallies of the country, with their own blood, and the blood of the slaughtered natives; nor yet while the dying embers of war between the English and

the natives rendered property insecure ; nor, when the conquest of the country had been completed, while the penal laws chained down the industry of the land.—To what period then shall we look for such a liberal measure of national prosperity, as gave the gentry of Ireland a superabundance of ability (if united even with a *minor* abundance of good-will) to accomplish the moral and social regeneration of the Irish poor.—Undoubtedly to that period when the rights of property and conscience having been wisely recognised by the British government and secured by law, the Catholic and Protestant industry of the land had arrived at its highest goal of prosperity—when commerce and manufactures flourished—when every merchant, manufacturer, shopkeeper, and artisan, had an ample theatre, upon which to embark his property and talents, with an almost certain prospect of success—in a word, when the joint industry of the country had been crowned with complete success, and the nation was actually in the fruition of its highest state of wealth.—We remember that happy period of Ireland's history—we saw and we enjoyed it in early life—but how were the peasantry of Ireland treated even at this auspicious period? —Was a society then formed for raising it out of that abject state of poverty and ignorance, in which it has been always sunk, within our memory? —Was even a union of the inhabitants publicly proposed by any leading land owner, or member of the Irish legislature, for raising more than half the inhabitants of the country from a state of po-

verty and soot, into which they would not have suffered the dogs of their flock to have dragged out a filthy and diseased existence?—No—in the whole of that prosperous period, we never heard of one national effort to rescue the Irish peasantry from that most oppressed and abject condition, into which their unhappy destiny has plunged them.—For forty years we have been the witnesses of their condition—and during the whole of that period, we have known a large proportion of them to be totally destitute of the comforts of civilized life.—Many of their sod hovels have we visited in the gripes of ditches, and witnessed the apertures in the roof through which the rain descended upon the miserable inhabitants, who, in many instances, were destitute of covering, and whose slender solitary board was often a stranger to the consolations of a herring, or a cup of butter-milk—that refuse of the dairy, with which the swine on many farms were fed, in preference to them.—If this was the lot of many peasants and their families, prior to the Union, when Ireland had arrived at the zenith of her wealth and freedom.—If then the wages of many labourers in Munster was four pence per diem (a fact which we recollect to have been brought before a yearly meeting of the society of Quakers, by one of its humane members, as a circumstance deserving the commiseration of their church.) If even then the people, by whose labour the whole nation was supported, were never regarded in any other light than as beasts of burden, who in point of comfort were not to be

placed in competition with the dogs of a gentleman's kennel, or with the bullocks in his stall; will the most strenuous advocate of parliamentary reform in England, presume to say, that 4,000,000 of people in these circumstances should be left to the prospective benefits of legislative enactments; and that the government of the country, (in the absence of a measure, to which it is not likely to lend its assistance) would not act a most praiseworthy part, by countenancing the formation of a national institute, which would possess facilities for mitigating the miseries of the poor of Ireland, and improving their condition; and whose powers would be adequate, if not to remove, at least to control those political and domestic causes, by which the country has been demoralized and laid waste.

If, in those days of Ireland's prosperity, nothing has been done for the peasantry of that ill-fated country, that deserves a record on the page of history; what security can the Irish patriot have, that the most effectual reform of the British legislature would bring health and salvation to the peasantry of his country, unless the gentry of the land were reformed also—and by what enactment of a legislative assembly a nation could be *dragged* into reform, we are at a loss to conceive; or how the salvation of a peasantry could be accomplished, unless the value of labour should be regulated by the price of produce and receive the sanction of a law: and even in this case, if no superintending association existed in the country

for the improvement of the morals and habits of the poor, what security could this reformed legislature have, that the end of its wholesome regulations would be answered, since Paddy, after he had received high wages by its appointment, would in many, yea, in most instances, go and spend it in the ale-house, and when intoxicated with whiskey, would spread desolation all around him: it is as true as that the reformer who thinks otherwise is in error, that the poor besotted creature, however high his wages, would not bid an eternal adieu to his immoral habits, his sooty cabin, and to the puddle at his door, for any act of parliament which might secure to him the value of his labour; nor turn the pig, which is to pay his rent, from the fire-side where his children sit basking, for the finest speech that could be made in the English House of Commons. It is a society of the intelligent inhabitants of each parish (whose influence on the spot, and whose actual intercourse with the people, enable them by judicious regulations and encouragements, to effect a progressive advancement in the morals and comforts of the poor,) that must achieve the salvation of the nation.—The laws of England, without such a support, might coerce the people; but without this assistance, it would be impossible to reform them.

It is then a union of the gentlemen, clergy and freeholders of Ireland, in a society expressly for the improvement of the character and condition of the poor, that must effect that object.—We advocate a reform of the commons' house of parliament,

on principle—and the same sense of truth and public duty, which leads us to expose our interests to the consequences of this confession, compels us to declare our belief, that with the exception of tithes, as already noticed, it is not the taxes imposed by the state, that have entailed upon the peasantry of Ireland the miseries of their condition, or the injuries that have goaded them to rebellion.—The religious jealousies and divisions of the country have prevented a union of the clergy and people for their improvement; and in this neglected state, they have been goaded, by a contempt of tenant right; by the heavy exactions of some griping landlords and their agents; by the extortions of tithe jobbers, and by the enormous charges of some middle men for their gardens and potatoe ground, into acts of atrocity which have broken up the peace of the country, and turned whole districts into a state of insurrection and rebellion—rebellion, not against the state, but against the tyranny of their domestic rulers. With the exception of tithes, the direct taxes of the peasantry of Ireland are not oppressive.—They pay no house tax—the county taxes, from the small proportion of land they hold, cannot be serious to them.—With the exception of beer and whiskey (which latter is a luxury much more injurious than beneficial to their interests, as they use it) they consume few or none of those productions that are heavily encumbered by the state.—Indirect taxes can only reach them in the shape of a reduction in the price of labour; and how this, as they have been

always paid, can take place with any appearance of consistency, we leave the public to judge.—The gentleman and farmer, who employ the labourer, and who consume exciseable commodities, cannot make the taxes which attach to their mode of living an apology for reducing his wages to a more dying standard than that which custom has established; and we have already shewn how much those gentlemen have done for the peasantry of Ireland, when the circumstances of the country were so prosperous, that a barrel of wheat which they are now glad to sell for one pound, brought them four—and when a barrel of oats which they sell for eight shillings, brought them twenty.—High or low was all one to the labourer who tilled the ground, and who by the middle men and middle women that generally employed him, was compelled out of his wretched pittance of sixpence, eightpence, or a shilling a day at most, to pay eight, ten, and even twelve guineas an acre for the rood of ground, on which he raised potatoes to rescue his family from death.

You now see, gentlemen, whether it is the peasantry or their employers that need to be reformed, in the first instance; and whether it is by a removal of abuses from the British senate, that peace and plenty will be restored to the labourer in Ireland!—A reform of the gentry is the thing wanting; a fact which the people of England might even guess at, from a queer kind of paragraph in the public papers, which appeared at the opening of the late famine, relative to a proposal made by

an English gentleman to some of the Irish members, in favor of their own country ; but which the English papers charged these latter gentlemen with having *coldly* received.—The thing was by no means surprising to us, although it certainly produced a sensation at the time, which would look rather awkward upon paper. “And are these the men,” some reformer will say, “whose services in the redemption of your country, you would wish to substitute for the salutary streams of a fountain of authority purified by justice?”—No, we would not substitute their services for those of a fountain of law purified by justice. As a nation we need both ; but the peasantry of Ireland more immediately require the assistance of their own country, and it would be madness to postpone it, if the government, without reform, is willing to confer this boon, since the latter is at hand ; and the former may not arrive, until the existing peasantry are dead, and another generation has risen up to fight their battles.—Moreover, the gentry themselves would be greatly benefitted by such an institution, because they would be united with the clergy and freeholders ; and in all these ranks men of great worth are to be found, who hitherto have had no opportunity of enlisting their talents in the service of their country.—The association therefore would produce good effects, not only to the peasantry, but to every class of the community ; and if the members of his Majesty’s government are really desirous to tranquillize Ireland, and to carry the parental admonitions of the king into effect, they

will undoubtedly bring this institution into fashion. They have only to speak the word, and it will be done—for their word, when *seriously* given, can do any thing in Ireland, and next to any thing in England—but still without a union of the Catholic with the Protestant clergy it will not go on; and this union cannot be cemented without a parliamentary provision for the latter; but this preparatory step his Majesty's ministers are also able to accomplish; and to them we leave it.

Let us now produce our reasons for the line of distinction drawn in this essay, between the peasantry of England and Ireland; and for maintaining that the relation which they bear to the political circumstances of the empire, is specifically different.—The wages of the English agricultural labourer, are usually in a ratio with the farmer's means—but this is not the case in Ireland—the high prices or low prices of corn—an addition to or reduction of the taxes, (unless the depression be extreme) makes no perceptible alteration in the Irish labourer's wages. However high the market, he derives little or no benefit from the value of the produce which he raises; nor do the taxes, whether high or low, in any sensible degree produce an alteration in his condition: he therefore, of all men, appears to have least to do with parliamentary reform.—The case is quite different with the British labourer.—The value of labour is well understood and fully appreciated in England, and as we have just remarked, is regulated to a certain extent by the employer's means—that is, by the

value of the article produced—or still more strictly speaking, by the exact measure of his profit.—Whatever, therefore, approaches to abridge the employer's profit, whether in the shape of taxation or a bad market, approaches to abridge the labourer's hire; and hence you find the labourer in England, a politician: and although this would strike some Irish *tradesmen* dumb, yet we shall make no note of admiration upon the passage.—Again, an English labourer (unless his country is labouring under an extraordinary pressure of calamity) lives well himself, and consequently sustains a portion of taxation in his own person. In London he visits the coffee-rooms with his apron on, and reads the newspapers with attention, while he sips his coffee.—His mode of living, therefore, as well as the influence of his employer's taxes upon his wages, gives him an intimate concern with those laws by which his wages are promoted, or indirectly burthened and abridged.—Now, we have already shewn that this is not the case in Ireland, where the labourer is a kind of stationary animal, whose burthens the employer will frequently increase, but seldom lighten; who knows little or nothing of the taxes; and who is never suffered to participate, in any fair proportion, in the prosperity of his country. On these several accounts we maintain, that parliamentary reform is not absolutely essential to an improvement in the condition of the Irish peasantry; while, for the preservation of peace and plenty to the Briton, it appears needful.

Farther—The peasantry of England have long enjoyed the benefits of an advanced state of civilization—they know and respect the laws—they enter into the politics of their country—they do not tamely yield to be stigmatized as a populace beneath the notice of the state.—They feel and respect the rights of society—they dread the approach of filth and famine, as they do the oppressions or national misfortunes which produce them—they abhor mendicity—are ambitious to stand erect upon the fruit of their own labours; by those labours they have lived happily in times past—they still live happily in London and elsewhere (where a labourer can earn more than a British pound a week), and being thus accustomed to a due share of the enjoyments of civilized society, they are more deeply interested in a great political question affecting the burdens of the nation, and the foundations of their liberty, than a peasantry to whom penury and filth constitute the privilege of their birth, and the patrimony of their nation; who, if that nation should happen to be prosperous, derive no essential benefit from its prosperity; if adverse, cannot possibly be much more deeply degraded than they are.—Between them, and the benefits of a liberal constitution, the customs of their country oppose an insuperable bulwark.—Parliamentary reform is no reform to them; a lightening of the burthens of the nation is no lightening of their burthens; a reduction of the taxes of the nation may give them a cheaper pair of *brogues*, but that

is all; and it is our firm belief, that if the Irish proportion of the burthens of the state were reduced to the annual sum of 6*d.* British, that this would not secure to the peasantry of Ireland (that peasantry on whose labour the nation lives) a very perceptible elevation in the scale of intelligence and comfort, unless government, by the all prevailing power of its word, shall call the people together, and shake the nation from its lethargy.

Tithes.

The rents, the emoluments, the issues and profits of the established church, are appropriated to the use and benefit of the clergy exclusively, says a contemporary writer.—The individual whose income amounts to £15,000 a year, is not compelled to do as much in return for it, as to buy a twenty-penny Bible, put a pane of glass in a church-window, or drop a halfpenny on a Sunday into the poor-box.—The priests who had the lands, the tithes, and the church revenues of all descriptions, before the time of Henry VIII. were not so fortunate.—The whole ecclesiastical revenue of Ireland (says Stillingfleet) was divided into four parts—one went to the bishop, another to the clergy, a third to the poor, and a fourth was applied to support the fabric of the church, and other uses.—“Here” said Mr. Grattan (adverting, in one of his speeches, to a brief sent by Pope Pius VI. to the King of Spain, in 1780)—“here,” said he, “are the Sovereign Pontiff of the Catholic faith, and the Catholic King of Spain, distributing

one-third of a part of the revenues of the church to the poor; and here are some of the enlightened doctors of our church deprecating such a principle, and guarding their riches against the encroachments of Christian charity! I hope," continues he, "they will never again afford such an opportunity of comparing them with the Pope, and of contrasting them with the Apostles—here Mr. Grattan appears to have placed the Pope and the Apostles in one group, and the Protestant bishops in another (a pretty arrangement this, in the third century of the reformation).—I do not think," said Mr. Grattan, "that their riches will be diminished; but, if they were to be so, is not the question directly put to them, which they will prefer, their flocks or their riches? For which did Christ die, or the Apostles suffer martyrdom, or Paul preach, or Luther forbid?—Was it for the tithe of flax, or the tithe of barren land, or the tithe of potatoes, or the tithe proctor, or the tithe farmer, or the tithe pig?"

Now, this language is not easily evaded; but what shall we say to the reproof which it conveys?—Why, we say, that so long as men may choose the ministry as a profession for their sons, and put them into posts of **AUTHORITY** in the church, by virtue of their *interest only*, these offices (with a few happy exceptions) will be filled with men of no better character than that which Mr. Grattan has so artfully delineated.—We say that, when the holders of livings from £1000 to £3000 a year (and there are many such

in Ireland) can put off a parish schoolmaster with 40 shillings per annum (and we have known this to be the case), and a bishop with £5000, £10,000, or £15,000 a year, can put him off with *nothing*, and every other class of the poor along with him, and nevertheless compel the curates to do the whole duty of a parish for £75 a year (and Welsh curates, they say, not near that sum).—Why then the church is in a bad way, however prosperous the clergy; but these latter do not think so, because they have the authority of law, and see before them a powerful army to support their pretensions.—(We hope the hireling press will not call this *sedition*; or if so, will it have the goodness to let us know if “freely ye have received, freely give,” be *sedition* also).—However, the clergy are not unconscious, that on the law of force (a law unknown to the first followers of Christ) their strength depends; for we presume they do not, as their cause is now circumstanced, depend very much upon public opinion. That the clergy’s cause does not rest more upon the latter than upon the former basis, is much to be deplored, considering the nature and design of their holy office; and considering that, if the progress of knowledge should threaten long established abuses with reaction, theirs, of all others, would be least likely to escape (a truth for which they may find strong proofs in the modern history of Europe).—This obstinate perseverance in corruption is rendered still more offensive, by the justice and purity of that reformed religion, of

which the bishops of our church (and they are almost to a man the decided enemies of reform) profess themselves to be the pillars and defenders. But although a thirst after wealth and power almost uniformly distinguishes this order, their bitterest enemies must own, that, for the most part, they are men of tolerant principles, and exercise their power with more moderation, in the religious world, than any other order of clergy upon earth.—Upon this, as well as upon other accounts, we could heartily wish that the Roman Catholic priesthood were in possession of a due share of the riches of our church, having no doubt but a participation of religious liberality would accompany a participation of property and rank. But concerning these, or any other order of clergy, it is vain to expect apostolic *disinterestedness*, until they enter into the apostolic building by the apostolic door; to which a university may be a useful ornament, but is a d——d bad passport; and it is equally vain to expect, whether from the clergy or from the people, that attention to the wants of society which our religion enjoins, until those wants are provided for by laws emanating from a source somewhat more deeply impregnated with the justice and charity of the Gospel, than is, we fear, the British parliament as it is now organised.

This is an age of scriptural knowledge, and to its honour, Christian education is making rapid strides; but where is the man of common sense who does not foresee, that the final result of a

diffusion of scriptural knowledge, will prove fatal to the overgrown revenues of the church.—The mind which receives instruction will reason and compare : it will mount up to first principles.—In many christian states and churches, it will see a most unjust and melancholy monopoly of wealth. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Catholic church should resist a scriptural education ; or that the late Protestant primate of Ireland, who is said to have been a man of great sagacity, should withdraw his shoulders from the Bible Association in that country, and even reduce it to contempt, if that were possible.—But, for the production of this contempt, we apprehend the vision of *future times*, with which his grace might have been honoured, while locked in the arms of Somnus (on a silken couch, richly embroidered), in the primatical palace, was rather late—rather late, the vision.—Oh yes, scriptural knowledge is now too far advanced—the vision should have arrived seven years sooner, to have enabled the grand patriarch to maintain that DEATH-LIKE DARKNESS which can alone secure to ecclesiastical abuses—an *eternal duration*.

In a pamphlet published by Wilson, of the Royal Exchange, London, the entire legal income of the Christian church, with the exception of Great Britain and Ireland, is estimated at £8,852,000 ; while that of the latter church (as established by law) is computed to amount to £8,896,000, being 44,000 per annum more than is paid by all the other Christian governments in

the world, to the clergy of their respective churches.—Now, when we consider that these latter clergy minister to 198,728,000 people (as appears from the following statistical table, extracted from the above pamphlet), while the established clergy of Great Britain and Ireland minister to 6,400,000 persons only, and yet enjoy an income of £44,000 per annum more than all the state clergy of the Christian world beside: what an insult it is to the understanding of this nation, that so very large a proportion of the property of the realm should be vested in the hands of a few individuals, for purposes (so far as religion and morality are concerned) that would be infinitely better answered by men in possession of a smaller income.—Thus the law, by a policy that has no parallel in the history of reason, is permitted to inflict three wounds upon the prosperity of the empire: the wound of an enormous debt upon the state (which a just and equitable application of church property to the joint benefit of the state and the clergy would put into a course of cure)—a wound upon the body of the nation (by a system of taxation that has reduced its blood to water, and not only destroyed the health, but even menaced the existence of the constitution)—and lastly, a wound upon the spiritual health and moral activity of the clergy itself, for which a reduction of its income to a temperate Christian standard, would be, if not a *radical* remedy, at least a *SOVEREIGN CURE*; and such is the importance of public instruction, and the value of the church

of England as a religious establishment, (for it is undoubtedly the first in Europe) that if this latter were the only advantage to be produced to the nation, by a reform of church property, that alone would be sufficient.

The author of this pamphlet shews, that after making ample provision for the clergy of all the Christian churches in England and Ireland, and constituting the working clergy of every denomination in these islands, the richest working clergy in the world, a surplus would remain, from the sale of ecclesiastical property, of £100,000,000; by which the Government would be enabled to reduce, at one stroke, the interest of the national debt £4,000,000,; and the taxes, of course, in an equal ratio with that amount.

**STATISTICAL TABLE of the Annual Income of the Clergy
of the whole Christian World.**

| | Amount. | Hearers. |
|---|------------|-------------|
| French Catholic and Protestant Churches - - - - - | £1,050,000 | 30,000,000 |
| United States - - - - - | 576,000 | 9,600,000 |
| Spain - - - - - | 1,100,000 | 11,000,000 |
| Portugal - - - - - | 300,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Hungary, Catholics - - - - - | 320,000 | 4,000,000 |
| Ditto, Calvinists - - - - - | 63,000 | 1,050,000 |
| Ditto, Lutherans - - - - - | 26,000 | 650,000 |
| Italy - - - - - | 776,000 | 19,391,000 |
| Austria - - - - - | 950,000 | 16,918,000 |
| Switzerland - - - - - | 87,000 | 1,720,000 |
| Prussia - - - - - | 527,000 | 10,536,000 |
| German small states - - - - - | 765,000 | 12,765,000 |
| Holland - - - - - | 160,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Netherlands - - - - - | 105,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Denmark - - - - - | 119,000 | 1,700,000 |
| Sweden - - - - - | 238,000 | 3,400,000 |
| Russia, Greek Church - - - - - | 510,000 | 34,000,000 |
| Ditto, Catholics and Lutherans - - - - - | 400,000 | 8,000,000 |
| Christians in Turkey - - - - - | 180,000 | 6,000,000 |
| Ditto, dispersed elsewhere - - - - - | 150,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Total - - | £8,852,000 | 198,728,000 |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| England and Wales | £7,596,000 | } 6,400,000 hearers. |
| Ireland - - - - - | 1,300,000 | |

Total income - £8,896,000 { of the established clergy of
Great Britain and Ireland.

Total income - £8,852,000 { of the established clergy of
the whole Christian world
beside.

Balance - - £44,000 in favour of the English clergy.

N.B. In an estimate of church property in Ireland, which lies upon our table, the see-lands of Armagh are valued at £150,000 per annum !—The observation of so many figures covers us with astonishment.—However, as the statement may be somewhat overcharged, let us see how Mr. Wakefield (who appears to have applied himself seriously to the subject) settles the account, after collecting those items upon the spot which were necessary to the accuracy of his conclusions.

Mr. Wakefield's Estimate.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| The Primacy per annum, worth | £140,000 |
| Derry - - - - - | 120,000 |
| Kilmore - - - - - | 100,000 |
| Clogher - - - - - | 100,000 |
| Waterford - - - - - | 70,000 |
| Total - - | <u>£530,000</u> |

The real income, however, derived by the dignitaries of the church from the above sees, is comparatively small; and hence, in his Majesty's dominions, there are no such landlords as the bishops.—In this particular, or in any other which concerns their private character, we feel pleasure in offering to them the humble tribute of our praise.—We have no warfare to wage with the dignitaries of the church, as men: it is against the undue measure of their wealth that we dare to speak; and against the policy of suffering a great engine of national redemption (and of the redemption of the church itself) to lie dormant in their hands, while the vessel of their country is driven upon the rocks, dismantled by the winds, and threatened with a final shipwreck.

In a number of the Edinburgh Quarterly Review for 1822, the above estimate of Mr. Wakefield (to say nothing of the tithes) is reputed to exceed the total income of the Scotch clergy (and perhaps a more efficient and respectable body of clergy does not exist upon earth) in a sum of between £200,000 and £300,000, notwithstanding this clergy has the duties of a whole nation to perform, while the clergy of our church are not burthened with the charge of more than about one-twentieth part of the Irish population.

In this estimate, the review just noticed not only quotes Mr. Wakefield, but Mr. Newenham, and concludes, that in averaging Irish benefices at £700 or £800 per annum, it does not take ground too high, as the aggregate income of 56 benefices in the county of Cork amounted (as Mr. Newenham asserts) to more than £40,000.

This average income of the beneficed clergy of the nation would, however, be the essence of reform, if equally appropriated and enjoyed, in comparison of that unequal division of church property which now prevails in Ireland. Here we observe one beneficed clergyman doing the duty of his parish for an annual income of £200 or £300; while another, who receives as many thousands from several parishes, does no regular duty whatever; and the curate, whose education has cost him as much as that of the bishop of his diocese, must do his duty, and maintain the respectability of his profession, on an income of £75. But this barbarous vestige of ecclesiastical

antiquity, however unequal and unjust, is the very essence of felicity to what follows.

What a striking contrast, in the picture of a nation, does this unaccountable bounty of the state to a few individuals, present, with that of a *group* of four millions, in the same picture, rising into insurrection, starving in ditches, dying in hospitals, or expiring under the vengeance of the law! This, remember, is a picture of Ireland!

Good God, is this Christianity?—Has Christianity been given for such purposes as this?—and can we wonder, that with such examples before the people of England, the latter are not only becoming infidels, but that the name of religion is hated by many families, their children never permitted to pronounce it but with indignation or contempt, and the awful name of a good and holy God (as we have heard with sorrow) openly blasphemed in some public assemblies in the great emporium of the world.—This, however, is part only of the fruits of the existing system; nor can it be reconciled to the light which Christianity has shed upon England in the 19th century, by those arguments of state-policy, which in every age, since the death of primitive Christianity, have been made the pretence for intercepting its bounty to the nations. Under the pretence of protecting the state from ruin, the founder of this religion was cut off.—The Pope, his professed follower and pretended vicar, went still farther than the Jews; for he asserted that his dethronement of princes, and his destruction of the Albigenses and other heretics,

was not only necessary to the preservation of civil order, but to that of religion too; and now that these points have been given up, and their reasons laughed at or abhorred, civil abuses, involving the same consequences, are strenuously maintained, and all under pretence of promoting the glory of God and the interests of religion—as if the glory of God would be promoted by injustice, and the religion of his son by a policy calculated to cover it with suspicion, and to bring into contempt that beautiful temple of the church which is the work of ages; which is cemented with the blood of the Reformers; and which requires only another generation of such men to render perfect.

Ulster provincial dialect.—A specimen of its rural inns.—Influence of the linen manufacture upon the character of the province.

The best way to give a stranger to Ireland some faint conception of its provincial dialects, is to embody a few ordinary phrases of each province, in that form of orthography which conveys with accuracy, to the English ear, the pronunciation of the district, which it is the writer's object to describe.—This has been done with precision by some Irish novelists, who have caricatured our national blunders with great effect; since every one who has travelled through the country cannot but be struck with their accuracy and point; and if he has a laugh within him, must be healthfully convulsed; and yet there is not a city under

the dominion of the British crown, in which the English language is spoken with greater purity and precision than that of Dublin.—We wish that some of our modern writers, who have so happily caricatured the blunders of their own country, would give us an abstract of the cockney dialect of John Bull, and of the amusing lingo of the English peasantry; as we think, that an accurate dictionary of the phraseology of the two countries would leave John very little room to laugh at the eccentricities of Paddy's *language*, however he might be entertained with his brogues and stockings, when he lands in England, to assist John Bull in the preservation of his harvest.

The first letter of the alphabet is pronounced in all its *classical* broadness, by the peasantry of Ulster—*i* is sometimes substituted for *e*, *e* for *u*—and, now and then, whole words are sweepingly abbreviated.—Nor are these provincial corruptions confined to the *language* of the country; but sometimes flourish upon paper, in the lower walks of commercial composition.

At a village inn, in the county of Armagh, “Brackfist” formed a prominent article in a bill with which the Author had been just furnished by his host; and this spelling of the word being perfectly conformable to his mode of pronouncing it, nothing could be more natural.—Finding fault with the manure and water, through which he had to pass in the yard of an inn in the county of Tyrone, the hostler apologised for its disorder by saying, that they had “bin so basy gatin in oats (that is, busy

getting in), that they hadn't time to *red* it (that is, to make it ready, or to cleanse it).—This, however, is pure modern English, when compared with that of certain parts of the county of Antrim, where the dialect is such broad Scotch, that we flatter ourselves an inhabitant of the Highlands of Scotland would find himself perfectly at home here.—Should this Scotchman, however, or his brother of the Antrim coast, visit some other districts of Ireland, his accent and phraseology would be as perfect Arabic to the people, as the dialect of Denmark; and their less corrupted English would be nearly unintelligible to him.—Education however will, in due time, do away the most prominent of these distinctions; a civil benefit, for which posterity will then feel its obligations to certain English legislators, who laid the foundation of this improvement, on which the gentry of the present age, to their lasting honour, are building a temple of Christian instruction, that will not soon perish.—It is this gift, indeed; with suitable domestic comforts, that guarantee the peaceful conduct of the people, under a liberal and enlightened government—they do more: they make the people an invincible pillar of a free state.—But as those who know their duties, and are determined to discharge them, are not ignorant of their PRIVILEGES, they and an arbitrary government will not long continue to draw kindly together in the same yoke.—The good of the whole being a doctrine of Christianity, and consequently a fundamental principle of Christian education,

these people will know how to make sacrifices of private interest to the public good: they will patiently bear the burthens of the state, when these burthens are not oppressive; but they will observe with attention the spirit of their laws, and the principle by which their government is actuated; and the conformity or nonconformity of these, to the righteous spirit of the Gospel, will determine the measure of their attachment to the existing power; and such appears to us to be the prevailing political sentiment of the Ulster population.

The difference between this province and that of Connaught, not only in the language of the people, but in their religion, manners, and mode of living, is perhaps as striking as that between two distinct and independent states. We do not suppose, from our slight knowledge of the existing history of France and Geneva, that a traveller passing from one of these countries to the other, would find the manners and customs of the French and Genevese so dissimilar as those of the Irish provinces of Ulster and Connaught.—The language of Ulster is a dialect of the Scotch and English—that of Connaught, Irish chiefly, with a corruption of the English, for which we have no name.—Irish is understood and spoken by some of the lower classes in certain districts of Ulster, but their knowledge and use of this language is comparatively partial.

We do not include the higher classes of society in this brief portrait; because the education of

these classes, and their commerce with other nations, usually raise them above the local corruptions of their country; but in the accent, manners, or habits, even of these, a tincture of provincial peculiarity is occasionally discovered. Gentlemen of fortune, who are natives of Connaught, know for the most part the Irish language well; and frequently converse in that language with the people of their country. Men of the same rank in Ulster, know nothing of the Irish language; at least, in a residence of several years in that province, we never heard a man of property speak Irish to his tenantry or servants, although we have seen many of the latter who understood that language. The peculiarities of the provinces, but particularly that of their dialect, are not however confined to the lower classes of the people; but, with the exception of the first class, extend themselves, more or less, to all the ranks of society, and to the whole mode and aspect of the country. There is a nameless something, composed of many parts, in the character and aspect of Ulster, which, while it infuses comfort into the breast of a stranger, inspires him with a confidence in the virtue of the people, of which he cannot always boast in the other districts. In nothing is this more sensibly felt than in the rural inns of Ulster, of which there is a vast number in that province; and in some of these, of the most humble aspect, an Englishman or Scotchman, with a slight measure of philosophy, would find himself tolerably well at home. Honest Brown's cabin hotel of

Killaleagh, (noticed in a subsequent part of this work) is an example of this kind : although a tall man must stoop to enter the door of this cottage, yet when he is once in, he will find a boarded floor in his apartment, (an accommodation which we never enjoyed in a cabin inn in Connaught, although we do not presume to say that there is no such thing in the province) a bed, on which he may stake his life; and such perfect security in the genuine simplicity of his host and family, as to reconcile him at once to the humility of his fare, and to the rural simplicity of his cottage scene; and when to all this the unostentatious solicitude of the people to oblige their guest is added, he will find nothing wanting to render this scene perfect, but a glass of good wine to heighten its conviviality, (and for which he will be obliged to substitute the whiskey punch of the country) and a lively and intelligent companion to share with him the pleasures of the cottage scene, to catch the visions as they rise; to trace the lineaments of a reformed religion and a prosperous manufacture, in the *contour* of the province, and to assist him to laugh heartily at the harmless eccentricities of the country.

Arriving at Brown's cabin, late in the evening, we had no great inclination to laugh, *at that moment*, for we were extremely hungry. Very good bread and butter, and equally good tea and eggs, were forthcoming; but unfortunately our stomach was so fastidious, that nothing but a taste of animal food would satisfy it on that occasion.

An opportunity of discovering the temper of the people now presented itself; for our anxiety for a bit of fresh meat was scarcely uttered, when our host's eldest daughter proceeded forthwith, on foot, to the next market town, a distance of about two Irish miles; and in about two hours, we had an excellent cutlet smoking hot upon the table: to this, her good tea served as a *desert*, and the comforts of a feather bed, *well aired*, closed the evening scene;—a scene, so much to our taste, and so much superior to one on a larger scale in that village, that we repeated the experiment, and departed the third morning after our arrival, well satisfied with the moderation of our bill, and resolved, if we should ever visit Killaleagh again, to make Brown's cabin hotel our head quarters.

To the general rectitude of the Ulster hotel police, we feel pleasure in subscribing; although historical veracity compels us to acknowledge, that even in this highly improved province, we met with some very glaring exceptions: the remedies for this abuse are however far more numerous in Ulster than in the other provinces, and therefore a traveller is seldom under the absolute necessity of continuing a second night in a house where he has been ill treated. Nor is hospitality so much the practice of this province as it is that of the southern and western districts; frugality, rather than hospitality, is the order of the day, in Ulster; but if its inhabitants be less prodigal of their favours than the inhabitants of Connaught, they are more strict in the payment of their debts;

and this honourable punctuality renders their frugality a virtue.

The linen trade has done wonders for the province of Ulster; and in every country where it obtains a firm footing, it must produce more or less of the same effects; but the progress of this trade is obstructed in Ireland, by the total inadequacy of the market to the quantity of its produce. When we left that country, in the spring of 1822, it was labouring under deep depression. The woollen manufacture may be considered as a local benefit, employing a certain number of the poor, in a certain spot, but the linen trade is not confined to a factory here and there; the process of sowing, steeping, drying, dressing, spinning, weaving and bleaching, through which the flax passes, employs a whole country, and unites its entire population in one bond of reciprocal communication and civil interest. The lord of the Ulster soil has the deepest interest in its success; not only because some members of his own family are frequently in the trade, but chiefly because his tenants are more dependant upon that trade, for the payment of their rents, than upon the potatoes and corn which their land produces.—The gentry of the country, to a certain extent, being thus engaged in the linen business, have continual communication with the manufacturer in the markets,—their interests become identified, and a chain of communication is kept up between all the ranks of society in a linen district, which does more towards tranquillising the country, con-

solidating its interests, promoting mutual affection, and exciting an honourable ambition to acquire independence, than can be accomplished by sanguinary laws, military establishments, absentee landlords, an aristocracy which holds no intercourse with the people, and a petty subaltern despotism, to which a system of this description never fails to consign mankind. In a word, in the north of Ireland, you see all industry and attention to business, and much civility, combined with a spirit of independence; but not many instances of a poor and ragged peasantry, without shoes and stockings, standing in the court-yard of a great man's house with their heads uncovered. Such have been the effects of the linen trade, and of a religion which has taught the human mind equally to abhor the dagger of the assassin and the oppressor's chain, and to expand itself in useful improvements, in every quarter of the world.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

TOUR AND SURVEY OF ANTRIM.

Basaltic area of Antrim described.

WE shall introduce our survey of the county of Antrim, by directing the attention of the reader to its basaltic area, which occupies, according to Dr. Richardson, nine-tenths of the county; and includes that striking natural curiosity, denominated the Giant's Causeway, with all those lofty colonnades and other magnificent wonders of its coast, which cause it to be visited by strangers of distinction, and which drew from their retirement, some eminent painters, and still more eminent naturalists, of the late reign, with whose theories and drawings of this coast, the sister press abounded, in that auspicious period of our history, when the rank and property of Ireland, attached to their country, by those parliamentary dignities and duties which it provided and imposed, were alive to every subject connected with its honour and its interests.— That day however has now passed over, and the

basaltic wonders of Antrim, with all the other wonders of Ireland, have been handed over, as a proper subject, to those brain sick patriots and poets, who by the charity of Government, are permitted to gratify their ardour for the improvement of their country, by harmless delineations of her beauties and her wants.

Amongst those naturalists whose talents we have noticed, as having been drawn forth in the late reign, by the newly discovered splendours of this coast, Dr. Richardson, a clergyman of an acute and penetrating mind, and who to the advantages of a deeply scientific education, added a practical knowledge of the history of the earth, may be justly considered as the first.—With a mind formed for deep and comprehensive researches, enriched with the purest lights of science, and possessing powers of discrimination equal to the finest and most subtle distinctions of nature, he was well qualified, not only to give an accurate view of the soil upon which he had resided for many years, but to encounter all those false theories by which it had been misrepresented, and the surprising phenomenon of his coast perverted from its natural and obvious indications, into the service of a hostile principle.

In presenting the British public therefore, with that beautiful specimen of the natural history of Ireland, with which this county has provided us, we gladly avail ourselves of those pre-eminent lights, which the labours of this learned man have cast upon it; and in presenting the following co-

pious extract from his letter to Mr. Dubourdieu on this subject, we shall offer no apology for giving it to the public in the Doctor's own language.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. Doctor Richardson to the Rev. J. Dubourdieu, on the basaltic productions of the county of Antrim.

Dear Sir,

Having replied to you very minutely on the subject of the two specimens you sent me, *ochre* and *zeolite*, so profusely dispersed over all Antrim, you now question me generally on the subject of our more prominent material *basalt*, the characteristic feature of our county, a sort of *differentia essentialis*, distinguishing Antrim from all other parts of Ireland. For although some patches of amorphous basalt may be met with in other parts of the kingdom, and though nature has scattered large basaltic districts over many parts of the world, yet it is admitted, that the Antrim prisms and pillars are executed with more neatness than any others.

In magnificence we are said (and particularly by Mr. Pennant) to fail; yet I venture to assert, that such positions are made only by those, who never saw our façades, that excel all others, of which I have read, far more in grandeur than in neatness.

It is mortifying to read the animated description, given by my friend Sir Joseph Banks, of the colonnades at *Staffa*, and the humiliating compa-

nism he makes between them and the distinctive productions of human architecture.

. I do not wish to derogate from the beauty, nor to depreciate the grandeur of the STAFFA colonnades; but, as Mr. Pennant institutes the comparison, I must tell him that, while the largest pillar at STAFFA is 55 feet, ours at FAIR-HEAD are 250.—The continuous colonnade at Fair-head is longer than the *whole island of Staffa*; and the colonnade at Bengore, three times as long; and of its *two* parallel ranges of pillars, one is equal to the solitary range in Staffa.

Though I never saw STAFFA, I may fairly pronounce our façades to be far more stupendous; for the highest point in the island of Staffa is but 126 feet above the level of the sea, while Pleskin, scarcely higher than the rest of the façade, is 370, and the uniform columnar range of Fair-head, 550.

I hope to be excused for this burst of national jealousy, and shall now proceed to your questions. You wish me to define with precision the bounds of the great *basaltic area*, occupying nine-tenths of Antrim, and not limited to *our* county.

You wish to be informed of the mode, in which nature has been pleased to arrange our basalt, with the disposition of the other fossils, and especially the limestone, so important to the agriculture of Antrim.

And finally, what changes the surface of ANTRIM seems to have undergone, since the consolidation of the composing materials.

In tracing the boundary of our basaltic area, I

must not limit myself entirely to Antrim, though comprehending by far the greater portion of it. This fossil occupies, by its strata disposed in steady planes, nearly one-third of DERRY, touches Down, and advances, in a long narrow tongue, 10 or 15 miles into the county of ARMAGH.

Basaltic area.

Commencing from the north-east corner of the county of Antrim at Portrush, and proceeding eastward so far as Ballycastle, the northern ocean forms the boundary, both of Antrim, and of the basaltic area.

At the west side of the quay of Ballycastle, the line of demarcation between the basaltic country on the west, and a district in which the component fossils are much diversified, turns due south, passes about one-fourth of a mile to the eastward of Ardroy, and, cutting off the mountains of Knock-laid, Behul, Bregah, Shieve Aura, and some more, all resting on schistose bases, turns to the left, deflects to the south-east, and passing to the northward of the stupendous basaltic hummock of Lurgaidon, reaches the eastern sea between Cushindall and Garraun-point.

Here the ocean again appears, and soon the limestone facades become our boundary for a considerable way; but at what exact point this line quits the shore, and runs parallel to it, I cannot now determine with precision, not having lately examined the coast with this object in view.

In the face of the range of hills above Carrick-

fergus, I find the line of demarcation strongly marked by a succession of limestone quarries, extending all the way to Lisburn, or, rather to the hills above it.—There are openings in the vast stratum of white limestone, which, in by far the greater part of the basaltic area, forms its boundary, separating the mass of basaltic strata, incumbent on it, from the more diversified materials, and more diminutive and irregular arrangements below them (mostly, in this line, sandstone and indurated clay) while the whole narrow stripe between the shore and the elevated limestone stratum, is crossed by numberless whyn-dykes, passing through the limestone, and burying themselves in the sea.

In the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, I have endeavoured, from the rectilineal course of these dykes, to trace them across the channel, and think I have recognised them on different parts of the opposite coast.

From Lisburn, our line of boundary turns to the south-west, by Soldiers-town, and, at Moira, enters the county of Down, and crossing a narrow stripe of it, passes by Magheralin into Armagh.

So far the line is strongly marked, the basalt every where resting on the limestone.

In Armagh, we lose the line of demarcation; but the field stones, and still more the scattered quarries, prove that a stripe of basalt, about three miles broad, continues all the way to Market-hill.

I shewed my friend, the Earl of Gosford, in a small façade close to Gosford Castle, every characteristic of the Giant's Causeway, the attempt at

columnar form, the coarse articulations, and the points ascending from the lower joints, faint and indistinct indeed, but still to be recognised; and our doubts were soon removed by the appearance of our appropriate fossils, on which I have already dwelt so much,—*ochre* and *zeolite*.

Returning southward, the boundary of our area crosses Lough Neagh diagonally, catches the Derry shore, not far from Ballyronan; the basalt is found incumbent on white limestone at Spring-hill; and, from Shieve Gallon to the northern ocean, the line of demarcation is as strongly pointed out as on the Antrim side, by the limestone quarries, shewing themselves like so many white spots on the sides of hills.

Limestone.

I now proceed, as you desire, to shew the manner in which nature has been pleased to dispose this fossil (basalt) on our surface, together with its more important attendant, our white limestone, without presuming to inquire by what operations she so arranged them.

The whole county of Antrim, exclusive of the eastern stripe I have cut off, and a small district near its centre, called the sandy braes, is formed by accumulations of basaltic strata, each separately of uniform thickness, and all disposed in steady planes, mostly with a slight inclination to the horizon, ascending at the periphery towards the exterior of the great area.

All these strata shew the distinguishing cha-

textures of basalt, the columnar and prismatic form, sometimes neat, again scarcely distinguishable, becoming *per gradus* nearly amorphous.

This accumulation of basaltic strata (wherever we can ascertain the point) rests on a mighty stratum of white limestone, generally 200 feet thick.

This calcereous stratum, like the mass of basalt strata incumbent on it, every where at the periphery dips to the interior; an unhappy circumstance, as this valuable material is soon immersed too deep to be accessible to man; and we see with much regret, that limestone is to be procured in Antrim at the periphery alone; not a single quarry in the interior of the area.

Were this inclination of the limestone stratum attended to, our quarries might be wrought with much less expense than they are at present; when working directly downwards, every huge nodule of flint and all other rubble remain still in our way, and encumber us in our operations on the solid stratum.

I had much communication with the late Earl Macartney on this subject, and strongly recommended the opening limestone quarries in this stratum, not vertically as at present, but to open an adit in the direction of the plane of the stratum; thus, carts might have access to all parts of the quarry, the facade would be the part attacked, and rubble and flint nodules, once thrown aside, would never again incommode.

I recommended similar measures at the quarries on the western side of our area, where the long

ridge of a mountain shows a succession of quarries, forming a long dotted line, mostly in the manner of Freemore.

I had hoped, from attention to the inclination and rectilinear position of this, or perhaps these vast limestone strata, to have found places, where they so approached the surface as to bring this valuable material in reach.

From the dip of the stratum at the north side of Cave-hill, and its consequent submersion, limestone ceases to be accessible; but several miles westward we have a small eruption of white limestone near Templepatrick, no doubt a part of the same stratum we had lost at Cave-hill, but which had been deranged, and elevated, by some operation of nature unknown to us.

Earl O'Neil told me, there is a similar eruption near Broughshane, no doubt part of the great stratum basisseting on the eastern face of the mountain above Glenarn.

The great stratum of limestone, forming a circular section quite round Knocklaid, gives us some curious geological facts, and is very instructive.

The plane of this immense stratum is slightly inclined to the horizon, rising to the north-east, while its lowest point on the mountain is some hundred feet above its base.

Now, if this rectilinear stratum, formed at the bottom of the sea (as appears from its marine exuvie) once extended far beyond the mountain on all sides, we should find it again in the direction of its dip, where, as it lowers, it should catch

the surface far below the height at which we see it on the side of the mountain.

But, by keeping our eye in the plane of the stratum and looking to the south-west, we see plainly, that it ought to catch the surface at the distance of two or three miles from the mountain in that direction.

And here we actually find it at the quarries of Ardmoyle, Balleeny, and some others, where this material is eagerly sought, so long as it keeps in reach from the surface; but the regular dip to the south-east soon sinks it too deep.

Before I entirely conclude, I shall avail myself of this valuable fact in other speculations.

Pursuing this train, and hoping from my acquaintance with the direction of another stratum, that seems parallel to the former, I traced this stratum that appears near the top of Croghan-mountain, watched its rectilineal course, until it shewed again at the Corky quarries, and I then tried for the appearance of limestone further southward, where I knew it was much wanted.

In the channel of the first brook to the southward, exactly where, from the direction of the strata, I expected to find it, I met with unequivocal indications that limestone was near, such as small particles of limestone with abundance of flints.

The distance from the open quarries of Corky was so small (perhaps half a mile) as not to make it worth while to break new grounds, especially below the surface; should the property change in that distance, the discovery may be convenient.

Proceeding still farther southward, I sought carefully for indications, but could find none; and while the mountains, all suddenly abrupted on their *eastern* face, shewed clearly the nature and disposition of the strata, their *midder* declivities on their *western* side, shewed no break to serve as a clue to direct me.

To bore at random, without indications, through accumulated strata of basalt, would have been folly; and even the small brooks came down with so little rapidity, that I could not find ravines cut deep enough to disclose what was beneath.

On the skirt of the mount Divvis I was more fortunate, and, as the dorsum of the ridge running northwards from that mountain, was narrow and tolerably sharp, I conceived that the great calcareous stratum baseting on the east side, and dipping to the west, might in its rectilineal course approach so near to the surface, as to be accessible for use.

I accordingly sought carefully for indications, and in a deep channel found flints, and small white calcareous pebbles (infallible proofs that the great limestone stratum was near), a considerable way down the hill on its west side, and about a mile from the quarries on its eastern face.

Should a limestone quarry be found here (as I have little doubt it will), the convenience to the parish of Killead, at least, will be very great; a mile will be shortened, and the ascent of the mountain will be saved.

Should, upon trial, the great stratum be found

in the place I point out, it will be prudent to attack it from a point much lower, by an horizontal adit, for the same reasons I have assigned above. Should we be so fortunate here as to hit upon the stratum, we may look with more confidence to the southward on the same side, and diligently explore the little ravines towards the sources of the brooks, which form the Crumlin and Glenway rivers.

The discovery would abate in its importance, as we advance to the southward; because we approach the actual baset of the stratum at Soldiers-town.

Still, however, abundance of lime in a country, whose soil is either peaty or basaltic clay, (each more highly meliorated by lime than any other description) must be a very serious advantage.

Coal.

That the discovery of coal strata in parts of *Antrim*, where this valuable fossil has not yet been found, would be of extreme importance, cannot be doubted.

Strata of coal, graduating into bituminous schists, are abundant in the district I have cut off, by a line drawn from the quay of Ballycastle, by Ardmoy to Cushendall; but the materials, of which that district is formed, are very different from those of the great basaltic area.

Basalt, columnar and prismatic, no doubt abounds in both; but in that smaller eastern district, schistus is predominant, freestone strata frequent, and, at Cushindun, packing stone in abundance.

I never met with any of these fossils in the great basaltic area. The limestone at its periphery, where alone it is found, is invariably white, while I *hear* there are quarries of blue limestone in the lesser district; and I was with my friend, the celebrated Dr. Davy, when he found blue limestone under the west facade of Fair-head.—Hence from the great difference in the materials of which these two districts are constructed, and the more irregular manner in which these component parts are arranged in the smaller, we cannot reason from analogy, nor infer that the presence of any one fossil in the *lesser* district gives us any reason to expect that it will also be found in the *greater*; that is, in the rest of the county.

The existence of coal then becomes a pure question of fact,—Has nature actually interposed strata of coal between the basalt strata, of which our country is almost exclusively formed?

With but one material, we have no indications to guide us.—In the eastern district, on both sides Fair-head, strata of freestone and coal alternate to a considerable accumulation; but freestone (so strong a symptom of the proximity of coal) is not found in any part of the great area with which I am acquainted. Our accumulated strata are all pure basalt, and it would be a bold measure to bore at random through such a mass, without any hint from nature that there was a probability of attaining our object.

Though not a common situation for coal, we certainly have two instances, at least, of a stratum

of coal between pure basaltic strata, which I have examined.

One at Mount Druid, near Baltintoy, where the coal is of that curious description, found also at Bovey, and sometimes called Herturbrand; the grain, the fibrous and lamellar construction, are such as to leave scarcely a doubt that this coal was once actual wood; while, on the other hand, the flat stratum, in which it is disposed, baffles conjecture to devise a mode, an operation of nature, by which a *forest* could be converted into a flat thin stratum, without a trace of the tree *form* remaining, *branch*, *stem*, or *root*.

This subject may be interesting to the *cosmogonist*, but with us it is unimportant, as the stratum seems too thin to promise any serious benefit.

I saw nothing encouraging in the coal stratum, which comes to the surface in *Kiltymorris*, like the other, compressed between basalt strata.

The mine had not been recently touched, nor was it easy to form a judgment of the *quality* of the material, and in *quantity* it seemed scanty; even had appearances been more favourable, there was little encouragement to proceed; the stratum opened in the centre of the county, remote from any seaport or inland navigation, open, or in prospect, or even possibility; while the profusion of peat moss, scattered every where about, secured abundance of fuel to the inhabitants of the vicinity for centuries to come.

We regret that this letter of Dr. Richardson stands before us in a mutilated state, nine pages

of it, to wit, from page 32 to 41, being lost. His next observation, however, appears conclusive. Upon the whole, I fear, the main body of the county of Antrim, that is, the basaltic area, holds out small encouragement to the miner.

Dr. Richardson's opinion of the origin of the inequalities of the soil.

I compare the area of *Antrim*, in its early state, to a vast tablet or block of stratified marble, upon which a mighty operator has been set at work to form, in bass-relief, our present surface.

According to this idea, our prominences, of whatever size, are undisturbed parts of the original *block*, while the materials, that once filled the hollows and cavities, have all vanished (as in our diminutive bass-relief) under the hand of the operator.

Our mountains, in this point of view, are no longer to be considered as the stupendous fabrics of a mighty agent; we must look upon *Knocklaid*, *Slenish*, *Divvis*, &c. merely as the scattered remnants of a diminished world, whose uniform substance once reached beyond their summits, and we know not how far.

Let us now see what are the *facts* by which these wild positions are upheld; what are the appearances from which we infer the surface of *Antrim* to have sustained such tremendous operations. Had the country once been a vast stratified mass, like the block of marble, to which I compared it,

then deeply engraved upon; whenever excavations are formed, and prominences left remaining, in both cases the rectilineal strata, of which they are both formed, must shew the edges of their planes on the sides of every elevation, and point out the abruption where the plane of the stratum, once continued further, was taken away from what remains, and carried off.

Could a more accurate description be given of the present face of the county of *Antrim*; almost every hill and mountain shews upon its sides the strata of which it is composed, bassetting, that is, coming to the surface in the rectilineal direction of their planes, where they reach the surface on their sides.—Nature, kindly disclosing her construction of *Antrim*, often shews these facts of herself in numberless instances; and where the removal of the materials has been abrupt, so as to leave a precipice, which occurs often, the whole arrangement is laid bare, as on the perpendicular sides of the marble block I compare it to; for what are the mighty *façades* lining our northern coast, but the sides of the *Antrim* block? Even where a grassy covering conceals the arrangement beneath, we are sure to find the strata in their rectilineal course, wherever we have occasion to look for them.

The abruption and removal of the *Antrim* strata are not disclosed on the sides of our hills alone: the summits, or dorsa, of our long ridges, have often the abruptions of our strata curiously marked

upon them, like so many steps of stairs. See the profile of the ridge of *Cragmore*, taken at four or five miles distance from the west.

Our mountains and hills, I have said, were not *formed*, but left *behind*; not constructed in the places where we find them, but the irregular remnants of a mighty block, the parts of which, once contiguous to them, have been completely carried away.

Let us examine some of our Antrim mountains. Will it be said that Knocklead, composed of three great strata, a *schistose*, a *calcareous*, and a *basaltic*, was constructed of these materials, and shaped into the segment of a sphere, as it now stands solitary?

Be it remembered, that the middle stratum (the calcareous) bears undeniable marks of having been formed at the bottom of the sea.

This stratum by its rectilineal plane (as if in the hands of a mathematician, cutting off a spherical segment), marks its section with the surface on the whole contour of the mountain; irresistible proof that it was once continued farther in every direction, even if we had not found it again at *Ardmag* and its vicinity; the only points in which, from the inclination of this plane, it could catch our present surface.

What is *slenish*?—A round hummock, formed by an accumulation of rectilineal basaltic strata, of steady parallelism.

Was this mountain, so conspicuous over all *Antrim*, formed by heaping circular portions of

basaltic strata upon each other, until it attained its present stupendous height?—an operation similar to that of old, in which the giants failed.

“ Per sunt conati imponere Pelion Ossam

“ Scilicet atque Ossa frondosum involvere Olympum.”

Or, shall we suppose that this mountain, composed of the very same materials with the rest of Antrim, and arranged in precisely the same manner, was once included in the vast block, and left in its present form by the removal of the contiguous materials?

The mountain *Lurgaidon*, in the *Glymnes*, is more beautiful; as a bold perpendicular façade, surrounding its flat summit, shews the nature and arrangement of its strata more distinctly.

Descending from our mountains, I come to the singular hummock of *Dunmull*, also surrounded by a perpendicular façade, disclosing the two strata of which it is formed, a columnar and an irregular prismatic, the two varieties of basalt, of which, in alternate strata, the long ridge on the top of which *Dunmull* stands, the parallel ridge terminating at Pleskin, and the whole intermediate country, was formed.

We apply the same reasoning to shew that *Lurgaidon* and *Dunmull* are not solitary erections, but were once parts of the vast mass, in materials and arrangement precisely the same with themselves.

Similar hummocks, generally in elevated situations, and always stratified, are scattered over the

whole surface of ANTRIM; yet this regular stratification, on the summits of hills, is so incompatible with received theories, that its existence has been denied. For, says the historian of the Academy of Sciences for the year 1746, "Such stratified mounts must have been elevated in the direction of an axis, perpendicular to the horizon; a thing nearly impossible."

When I compared the operations performed on the surface of Antrim to the engravings on a marble tablet, I said, pursuing the parallel, that the materials which once filled the cavities, had in both cases vanished under the hand of the operator.

Let us establish this curious fact.—Assuming that the limestone stratum, forming a circular section round *Knocklaid*, was once continuous so far as *Ardmoy* and *Balleeny*, what has become of such a mass of materials, not a particle of limestone rubble to be met with in the interval between *Knocklaid* and *Ardmoy*, the two points where the stratum is resumed, after having lost its intermediate part?

In like manner, a similar stratum, bassetting far up on the north-eastern face of *Cave-hill* (above the villa called the Throne) and lost in the valley between *Cave-hill* and the hill of *Carmoncy*, is resumed on the south-eastern face of the latter hill, a little lower, but in the direct course of its rectilineal plane.

Who, that traces the steady course of this undisturbed stratum, for many miles on the face

of the hills north and south, can doubt that it was once quite continuous, that its *façades* and quarries on the two hills were once connected; and that the valley by which we now pass from Belfast to Templepatrick is of posterior formation, excavated many hundred feet deep, through the continuous basaltic and calcareous strata, and the more irregular materials upon which they rested?

In this case the stratum, before it was disturbed, continuing from hill to hill, stretched like a roof over the interjacent country and the road by which we now travel.

Are there any remnants of this vast mass left? any calcareous rubble scattered over the valley? not a particle. The small broken white limestones extend but a few yards from the foot of the *façade* or quarries—the rest of the materials have all vanished.

The case is the same in every valley through Antrim, whether it be wide, and the disrupted parts of the strata remote from each other; or whether, as in our northern *façades*, it be a mere chasm, with the edges of the opposite strata so near, as upon inspection to proclaim their former union.

Where there is no valley, but merely a perpendicular precipice, such as lines two-thirds of the coast of Antrim, from *Portrush* to *Ballycastle*, the materials of the strata, which obviously once projected farther north, are all carried off; and I boldly say that, after repeated examination of that whole line of coast, I never met with the

débris of an upper stratum, except close to the Giant's Causeway, on each side of which some large spherical masses are found, obviously belonging to the stratum, which immediately rests on the neat columnar one, of a projecting part of which the Causeway is formed, the materials once incumbent on it having been carried off.

I shall here probably be told, that the ruins lying in many places at the foot of the precipice, called by Mr. Whitehurst, "*an awful wreck of the terraqueous globe,*" are the remnants of what fell from the precipice above; and the wild fragments scattered at the foot of the façade (when its profile is viewed from the east side of Pleskin) will probably be quoted on me.

I well know the capricious irregularity exhibited in such terrific grandeur, and have carefully examined every rude prominence, composing the dreadful scene, and find them *all*, of whatever form, to be undisturbed parts of the original block, stratified like it, with the strata in both of similar inclination, and the disrupted parts pointing towards each other. I am aware I have pressed this point with tedious minuteness, but the paradoxical position I am supporting, to wit, that the present surface of Antrim is much lower than it was at a former period, turns entirely on the disruption of its strata, and the complete removal of the materials.

I shall add but one fact more, which bears upon both points. The hills or mountains surrounding the district, called the *Sandy Braes*, are all stra-

tified basalt, their form, like that of all other basalt hills, sloping gradually at one side, and more suddenly abrupted at the other; while, in the lower area, the basalt has vanished, a sort of reddish porphyry alone is to be met with; and the numerous little hills, scattered over the district, are every one, without exception, correct segments of spheres.

The form of our surface, and the shapes of our hills, depend more than we are aware of, on the material composing them, a change of materials generally producing hills of a different figure; a subject of much curiosity, but not adapted to a statistical survey.

I have said, that the materials have been carried off, not only from our hollows and vallies, but even from the tops of our hills and mountains, many of which bear irresistible marks of having been once higher than they are at present. I could produce many proofs from other countries, and even from our own neighbouring mountains of Down and Derry; but I am limited to Antrim, and not at a loss.

The mountain Croghan, some miles south from Knocklaid, is cut across near its summit, by the plane of a great limestone stratum, leaving above it a lump or hummock of basalt.

This could not have been original formation, nor the effect of convulsion, as the white limestone stratum continues its rectilineal course all the way to Corky.

Croghan must, like the other mountains on the

east of Antrim, have had an accumulation of basaltic strata, resting on the limestone, and of which accumulation the hummock I mention is all that remains.

M'Arts castle, on the top of the façade at Cave-hill, is the last remnant of a stratum, that once, no doubt, extended like those it rests upon; but which has been all carried off except the pit-tance I mention.

The gigantic pillars at Fair-head, whose summits rise 550 feet above the level of the sea immediately below, shew plainly, that the present irregular line of surface is not the original termination of the colonnade, but that it must once have reached much higher.

While the façade at Bengore, now composed of ten strata, and 370 feet high, once consisted of sixteen, for we can trace six more from their emersion, until in their approach to the façade they are cut short before they reach it; whereas, had they been suffered, like those below them, to reach the façade, as they once did, they would have added 150 feet to its height.

This curious topic, the diminution of our surface, with the total loss of the materials that composed it, I have discussed more generally in a letter to my friend Dr. Davy (then secretary to the Royal Society) published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1808, vol. xcvi.

Some months afterwards, a scientific friend transmitted me a paper, written by a Mr. Farey, and published in a philosophical magazine.

Mr. Farey comments on my memoir in a very flattering manner, and exults in finding that a gentleman, who had not met with his essay on the same subject, had, from facts in another country, drawn conclusions similar to those he himself had deduced from the arrangements, positions, and abruptness of the strata in different parts of England.

My friend, indeed, considered me as more prudent than Mr. Farey; for while I do not presume even to conjecture as to the agents by which these mighty operations have been executed, contenting myself with establishing the facts, Mr. Farey goes further, and supposes that one of the diminutive and newly discovered planets has, in some of its revolutions, come so near to our globe, as to have changed the direction of gravitation, and, in its rapid progress close to our surface, to have carried off the materials we now miss.*

We shall close this quotation from Dr. Richardson's ingenious letter, with a recommendation to

* If the earth were inhabited by men, when our valleys were first formed by this visit of Mr. Farey's planet, it was a melancholy circumstance, if any of them survived this awful phenomenon, that they did not leave behind them some certain tradition of the event.—If none survived, then there must have been a new creation of men. That the surface of the earth has undergone some material change, since her original formation, seems very probable, but the Scripture account of the Deluge is the only one that carries with it the aspect of a probable cause, or that assumes the appearance of a sound tradition; and beside it, the claims of any other tradition to credit are too ridiculous to require a formal refutation.

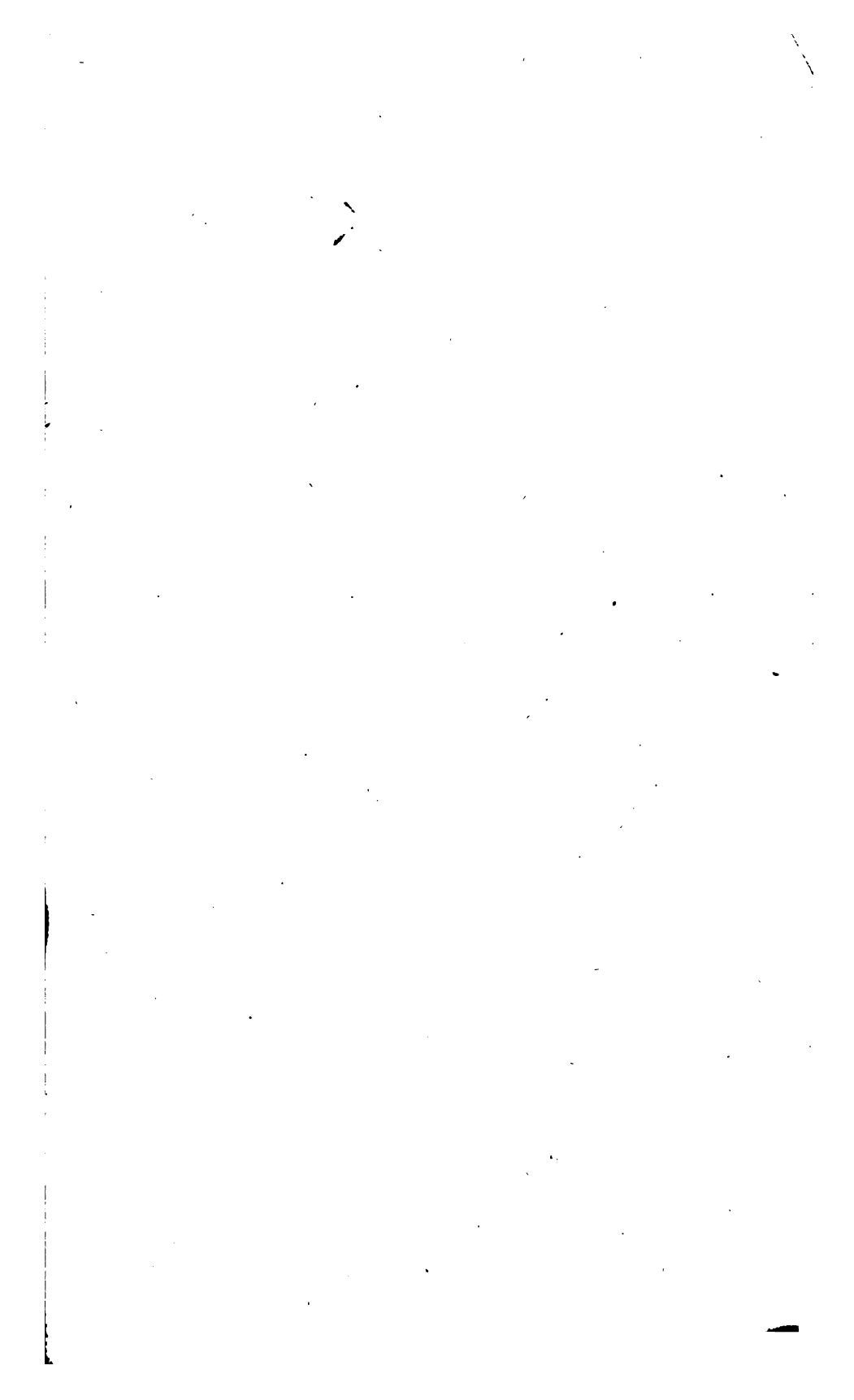
those strangers who visit the coast of Antrim, for the single purpose of scientific research, to carry with them the Doctor's "Itinerary," published by Mr. Dubourdieu; as also his letter to that gentleman, on zeolite and ochre. As these pieces, we flatter ourselves, display a more deep and accurate acquaintance with the natural history of Antrim, than any other work on the same subject, of *the same extent*, and were written by a gentleman, who, with adequate fortune and leisure for such researches, devoted many years of his life to an unusually minute examination of the strangely combined and diversified strata of this county, in which he long resided; we have no hesitation in saying, that the son of science who determines to explore the mysterious operations of nature on the Antrim coast, will derive the greatest advantage from the labours of this eminent man, who was probably one of the most profound naturalists that Ireland has yet produced.

To those strangers who visit Ulster for the enjoyment of the scenery of Antrim, or for the purpose of seeing with *their own eyes* the state of society in that province, we trust this work will not be found an unacceptable companion, nor yet destitute of those leading features of its natural history, which are essential to the accuracy of a general view; while it has been our study to enliven the paths of science with incidents and reflections, calculated to amuse and inform the intelligent stranger, when, fatigued with his per-

ambulations through the immense curiosities of the Antrim coast, he may wish to relieve his mind from more serious studies by an observation of the Irish people; when (like sheep dressed with garlands preparatory to sacrifice) they are drawn forth in their holiday dresses, in the splendor of a royal national review.

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END OF VOL. I.



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